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T H E
M E M O I R S
O F T H E
T O W N A N D C O U N T Y
O F

L E I C E S T E R :

Displayed under an EPITOME of the Reign
of each Sovereign in the ENGLISH
HISTORY :

Containing, The ANTIQUITIES of each,
and the HISTORICAL and BIOGRAPHICAL
RELATIONS at Large.

To which is added,

A Brief Supplimentary Account of the
present state of LEICESTERSHIRE.

B Y J O H N T H R O S B Y.

“ Solicit not thy thoughts with matters hid,
“ ——— Heaven is for thee too high
“ To know what passes there; be lowly wise.
“ ——— ask
“ How first this world and face of things began,
“ And what before thy memory, was done.”

MILTON.

V O L. V.

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by J. Gregory, in Leicester. 1777.

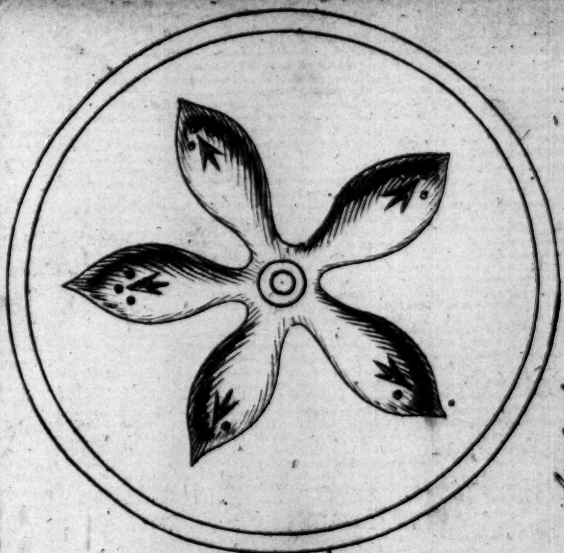
MEMORIALS
OF THE
TOWN AND COUNTY

OF THE
TOWN AND COUNTY

Containing the Antiquities, History, and Natural History of the County of Devon, and the Town of Exeter.



Vol. V.
Part II.
The History of the County of Devon, and the Town of Exeter, from the Norman Conquest to the Present Time.



Fitz Parnell's Seal.



T H E
C O N T E N T S
O F T H E
F I F T H V O L U M E.

C H A P. 29.

I N T E R R E G N U M.----*Beaumont*.----*Dr.*
Hall.---*John Angel* ---*John Cave*.----
Sampson.----*Cleveland*.---*Fox*.

C H A P. 30.

Charles the Second.---*Lord Loughbro'*.---
Lilley, Leicester.---*Subterraneous Antiqui-*
ties.---*A Tumult*.

C H A P. 31.

James the Second.---*Earls of Leicester*.

C H A P. 32.

William and Mary.--*Smith*.---*Shaw*.
---*Sir Thomas White, Knight*.

C H A P. 33.

Anne.---*B. Beveridge*.---*Dr. Cave*.---
A Meteor.CHAP.

C H A P. 34.

George the First.—*Lawrence Carter,*
Knight.—*All-Saints Church.*

C H A P. 35.

George the Second.—*Loyalty.*—*A*
Mystery.—*An Inundation.*—*Whiston.*
—*Sheepshead.*—*Hubbard.*—*Leices-*
ter.—*A Murder.*—*Keyling.*—*Proud-*
man.—*A Miracle.*—*A Subscription.*
—*Executions.*—*An Earthquake.*—
A High-Wind.—*Cart.*—*The Exchange,*
&c.

C H A P. 36.

George the Third.—*Simpson.*—
Richmond.—*Lord Granby.*—*The King's*
Thanks to the Leicestershire Militia.—
Andrews.—*A Riot.*—*Bribery.*—*A*
Miracle.—*Leicester-Infirmery.*—
Recorders of Leicester.—*James Wigley,*
Esq.—*Leicester High-Cross.*—*A Tumult.*
—*A Fire.*—*Relief.*—*Ludlam.*
Lee.—*Leicestershire Militia.*

THE
MEMOIRS
OF THE
TOWN and COUNTY
OF
LEICESTER, &c.

CHAP. 29.

*Interregnum. — Beaumont. — Dr.
Hall. — John Angel. — John Cave.
Mr. Sampson. — Cleveland. — Fox.*

INTERREGNUM.

CHARLES's death was succeeded CHAP.
29.
by the most whimsical attempts to
change the ancient form of govern-
ment, that ever entered the brain of
man. Faction and fanaticism, the
grand incendiaries in the destruction of
monarchy, now grew intoxicated with

VOL. V. A success

CHAP. 29. success, and vainly fancied, under the mask of religion, that the very heavens would comply with the absurdity of their opinions.—About two years after the death of the king, his son Charles made a fruitless attempt to get possession of the throne; but being defeated at Worcester, he escaped his sanguinary pursuers, by undergoing, almost unparalleled sufferings: Barns protected him during the forbidding night, and the friendly Oak preserved him during the tedious day, till time favoured his escape to France.—Now our country's Tyrant began to display his art in governing. The elevated Cromwell, in 1653, gave expiring freedom the most deadly wound the constitution ever felt. He, who heretofore seemed to tremble at the errors of a misguided but well-meaning king,

now

now instantly tramples upon the high-^{CHAP.}
 est privileges: not pleased with the re-^{29.}
 solves of the Commons, he enters
 their house with an armed force; not
 to deter only, but to drive away its
 members. The people now saw the
 sad effects of their change, a limited
 monarchy, for despotism of the high-
 est magnitude, under the specious
 name of protector.—The lordly Ty-
 rant aimed at sovereignty, but the ar-
 my boldly opposed the insolent attempt.
 Death at last free'd the world of this
 usurper, after enjoying the protector-^{1658.}
 ship four years. “ From this time to
 “ the restoration (says a sensible wri-
 “ ter) happened so many changes in
 “ the government, so many contend-
 “ ing interests, such a variety of jar-
 “ ring schemes and projects, so much
 “ hypocrisy, cant, fanaticism, and
 A 3 “ cunning :

CHAP. "cunning : a military legislature, a
 29. "preaching army, and an infatuated
 "people, all conspire to distinguish
 "this epoch from every other, and
 "mark it as the most extraordinary
 "that occurs in the annals of human
 "nature."

It at last pleased the disposer of all events to turn their contending interests to the advantage of the rightful heir, Charles the second. General Monk, who commanded the army, seconded the wish and hopes of the royalists ; and by his means, under God, terminated a race of mushroom governors, who, after the death of Cromwell, were truly despicable.

a Cromwell, although a tyrant of the first magnitude, was a distinguished soldier and politician ; and as the governor of a great kingdom none of the inconsiderable in the eyes of the
 the

JOHN BEAUMONT, CHAP.

SON of Sir John Beaumont, of this County, was an active royalist in the grand rebellion; and being as hearty in Charles the second's cause, against the usurped government, was slain in endeavouring to recover his just and lawful rights.

Dr. HALL,

WAS born in this County about the year 1574. His parents design-

A 3 ing

the neighbouring nations. And when we behold him rise from a private station to the seat of kings, and behave with a dignity suitable to that power, his character is truly wonderful. But when we view him packing of juries, displacing judges for not obeying his dictates, committing men illegally to prison, trying them before new erected tribunals, and adjudging to death without the verdict of a jury; and violating the privileges of parliament, his excellencies are so shaded and diminished, that they but faintly glimmer beneath a clouded horizon.

C H A P.^{29.}ing him for the church, he became a student in Emanuel College, Cambridge. Soon after he took orders he was made chaplain to the earl of Doncaster, and ambassador to France; and upon his return was advanced to two valuable livings, and the deanery of Worcester.

He accompanied James the first to Scotland in 1616, and two years after he was sent by that prince a commissioner to the synod of Dort, which met to consider the nature and tendency of the opinions advanced by Arminius, and Episcopius; but he returned from Holland before the assembly broke up, on account of his ill state of health, after he was shown the highest marks of respect by that learned body. He was also honoured with the gift of a gold

gold medal from the states General. CHAP.

29.

Upon his return to England he was appointed bishop of Exeter, and afterwards translated to the See of Norwich.

When the flames of party zeal began to spread amongst all orders of people, and the great Milton, with others, had attacked the established church, without restraint, Dr. Hall stepped forth the champion of the church, and in a very masterly manner vindicated the holy Fathers from whom its origin began. He also endeavoured, with his able pen, to stop the torrent of abuse, that was daily issuing from the press, to inflame the minds of the people against their governors, but without effect. When the constitution ceased to aid its friends, and go-

CHAP. 29. Government being overturned, upon the king falling a victim to rebellion, this great man retired to a village near Norwich, where he spent the remainder of his days in solitude. He died A. D. 1656.

He has been often called the English and christian Seneca, for his sententious manner of displaying the historical parts of the Bible. He was a man of extensive learning, remarkable for his piety, and an eloquent and persuasive preacher; and is said to be the first English divine who wrote with classical purity.

JOHN ANGEL,

WAS Lecturer at Leicester in those desperate times. He was a preacher very much esteemed by the presbyterians;

JOHN CAVE.

9

ans ; but upon the independant faction^{C H A P.}
being successful, he was driven from
his place because he refused the *En-*
gagement, a vain project of those infatuated people. But he is chiefly memorable for prognosticating, a little before his death, that Charles the second would be restored in 1660, which happened. He died at Grantham in 1655.

JOHN CAVE,

FATHER to the learned Dr. Wm. Cave, was born at Pickwell, in sith country, and was *Rector* of the same parish. He being a supposed royalist, was most inhumanly treated a long time, by quartering of soldiers upon him ; who, not contented with plundering his house, abused his children and servants ; and after being vexed with

CH A Pt^{29.} with their cavilling against the *Liturgy* and *Church-Government*, accused him of stealing their horses, for which he was tried by a council of war, and sentenced to death; but Ireton came very opportunely and saved him from their cruelty. This unhappy man was at one time pluck'd from the pulpit when preaching, another time shot at in the same place, 'then summoned from committee to committee, and at last being brought to London, was condemn'd upon certain articles, and ejected with his wife and six children. But here their persecuting spirit did not stop: He returning to his native place endeavoured to teach at a school for the maintenance of his family, but he was not permitted by these fiery zealots, whereupon he removed to London, where he died in 1657.

Mr.

Mr. JOHN CLEVELAND.

11

Mr. SAMPSON,

CHAP.

29.

MINISTER of Keym, died in 1655,
and had been minister of that parish
92 years.

Mr. JOHN CLEVELAND,

AN eminent poet, was born at
Hinckley, a considerable market-town
in this county, whose father was ma-
ny years vicar of the same place. He
studied at St. John's college, Cam-
bridge, and had there the reputation
of an excellent scholar; but cherish-
ing the pleasing strains of poetic fire,
imagination's fancy elevated his con-
ceptions above the common strains of
poetry, which has ranked his name
amongst our first poets. He was one
of the first who opposed the many in-
cendiary writers, in that age of unre-
straint

C H A P. straint he lived in ; but for his loyalty
29. was ejected from his fellowship. He
then fled to the King's army at Ox-
ford, where he was highly esteemed
among the nobility there. From Ox-
ford he retired to Newark, where the
governor of that place made him Judge
Advocate ; but after Newark surren-
dered to the parliament's forces he was
taken and imprisoned, at Yarmouth,
where his confinement brought on an
illness that endangered his life. He
there drew up an address to Cromwell,
wherein he shewed so much of the
scholar, and so much persuasive elo-
quence, that the Usurper forthwith
ordered his enlargement. He then
went to London, where a friend suc-
coured and protected him, in Gray's-
Inn ; where he died A. D. 1658.—
His body was interred at Collegehill
churc

church ; and the Rev. Mr. John CHAP.
Pearson (afterwards Bishop of Chester) 29.
preached his funeral sermon. Mr.
Pearson was afterwards interrogated
why he did not bestow the deserved
encomium on him ; he replied, “ To
such as know him not, I should have
spoken too much to be believed ; and
to such as knew him well, much short
of his deserts.” Little was said of him
at his death, by reason of the suffer-
ings of his friends (the royalists) who
were obliged to restrain their feelings,
at this critical juncture, when it would
have been dangerous to have uttered
the most slight encomiums in praise of
a royalist ; but there is a small volume
of his poems extant that portrays the
man, and is a monument of his abili-
ties.

THE apostle of the Quakers, (as Sir William Penn calls him) was born at Fenny-Drayton, in this county; and was by trade a shoemaker. Among the numerous sectaries that these unsettled times gave birth to, was the whimsical exordium of the Quakers. Mr. Fox appears to have had no education that merited the success he met with in religious matters; but it must be confessed that the times haply favoured his endeavours, as men's minds were strongly agitated, religion fluctuating, and serenity nowhere to be found but in the breasts of children. An apparent desponding gloom seemed to possess him while working at his trade: at times he was, like his unhappy country, seized with

with convulsions, and trembled in the extreme; then he has been heard to say that the spirit was moving him to utterance. At other times he would pretend that he saw visions; and, at last, by meditating much on the scriptures, he set up for a preacher. He proposed but few articles of faith, insisting chiefly on moral virtue, mutual charity, the love of God, and a deep attention to the inward motions and secret operations of the spirit. He recommended a plain simple worship, and religion without ceremonies; making it of the highest moment to wait in silence the directions of the spirit. Mr. Nathanael Stevens, who was some time minister of Fenny-Drayton, and a man well initiated in theologic disputations, attacked Mr. Fox, who was then wandering with his followers

CHAP.

29.

CHAP.

29.

from place to place, imitating the primitive christians, but to little purpose. He then exhorted his followers against the tendency of Fox's new-fangled opinions, and boldly declared the impossibility of the visionary reveries ; which had that effect upon the people of the vicinity of Drayton, that, it is said, very few converts were made there.—But before the death of Mr. Fox, which happened in the succeeding reign, the seeds of his religion had taken such root in England, that it is not likely to fall but with the country. And who can say that those tenets which sprang from this unembellished teacher, will not one day be the religion of an empire ; but from the temper of its present professors, it is not likely to be established by blood.

The

The quakers at first setting out CHAP.
 committed various kinds of extrava- 29.
 gancies and disorders, which probably,
 if they had not been opposed, might
 have subsided. But the justices of the
 peace, the ministers of the established
 church, and the inferior civil officers
 followed them about, sometimes dis-
 puting with them, and at other times
 making use of their power, binding
 them to appear at sessions, &c. where
 they were indicted and tried. This
 opposition like all others of the same
 kind, instead of subduing, made them
 formidable.—Their strange concep-
 tions of God's spirit made some of them
 frantic in the extreme, who, in the
 height of their fits, would run about
 issuing forth such like expressions as—
Repent!—Repent!—Wo!—Wo!—
The judge of the world is come! Some

CHAP. of them whose imaginations were
 29. heated, with their visionary concep-
 tions, would appear at markets and
 other public places, almost naked,
 preaching their incoherent language
 to the people. In one place a man
 and woman went about naked, ex-
 cepting a small apron each, and called
 themselves Adam and Eve ; but being
 taken up and examined at an Affize,
 the man affirmed, *That the power of
 God was upon him, and by him was com-
 manded thus to act.*

When preaching they called them-
 selves “ The way to the truth and
 the life.” One of them declared him-
 self to be the Son of God. A silly
 woman who went to see this fanatic
 in prison, declared herself also to be
 the Son of God ; and being told that
 that

that was impossible, she being of the CHA P.
29.
contrary sex, she replied, I am a man,
and asserted, that her hearers who were
men, were women.

They railed at the Judges and called them *scarlet coloured beasts* : and the justices they stiled *justices so called*, and affirmed that there would be quakers in England when there would be no justices of the peace. They made it a common practice to enter the churches with their hats on their heads during divine service, and there railed against the preachers, calling them *Liars, Baals priests, Babylon's merchants, &c. &c.*

How exceeding different is the conduct of the professors of that religion now ? The impartial must view them in the most amiable light ; living
B 4 peaceably,

CHAP. peaceably, and destitute of those vices
29. which a licentious liberty has stamped upon the present age. An efficacious discipline, wisely framed, we must conclude, prevents among them those fatal disorders which we so frequently behold among ourselves. When see we their parents in the most agonizing distress, too common among others, bewailing a lawless undutiful offspring? When see we their Youths dragged by stern justice to an horrid dungeon; and led in chains to conviction, and in the end to ignominy at the fatal tree, by extravagance and its long train of successive vices? If there be some exceptions to these sentiments, I trust they are not many.

CHAP.

CHAP. 30.

*Charles II. — Lord Loughborough —
 Lilley. — Leicester. — Subterraneous
 Antiquities. — A Tumult.*

CHARLES II.

WAS restored, amidst the universal exultations of a people, wearied by the oppressions of a long, and horrible, civil war; and at a time when the peaceable part of the community dreaded the return of its baneful power, from the divisions of the ambitious and petulant, which then formed the jarring government. —

Two years after, Charles married the Infanta of Portugal. Soon after which a war commenced with the Dutch, in which

CHAP. which the English gained some considerable victories by sea: but before
 30. peace was obtained, the Dutch found means to enter Chatham river, and burnt several men of war there.

Besides other occurrences of less moment there happened, in this reign, a most dreadful pestilence in London, which was followed by a fire the most alarming, perhaps, in the annals of the world. *b*

Charles' death happened the 16th of Feb. 1685, in the 55th year of his age. *c*

LORD

b The number of houses burnt, besides churches, &c. was upwards of 13000

c His court was that of levity, where wit and obscenity were never equalled. Vices might be cherished in that court where Charles was succoured during his exile, but a seriousness

SECOND son of Henry earl of Huntingdon, he was a person of great eminence in the military line during the civil wars. At the commencement of those troubles he was one of the first that appeared in arms for his King. He had the honour of conducting the Queen from Burlington to Oxford, built several garrisons at his own expence, was Governor of Leicester when besieged and taken; and repaired and garrisoned Ashby-de-la-zouch. ——— For these services and steady zeal he was created, the 19th of Charles I. a peer of the realm,

ness becoming the awful exit of his unfortunate Father, would have well become his son and successor. While a God is believed and worshiped, the reverse of piety will ever distinguish this reign.

C H A P. ^{30.} realm, by the title of Baron of Loughborough.

WILLIAM LILLEY,

THE astrologer, was a native of this county, and was initiated in grammar learning at Ashby-de-la-zouch. He having a tolerable address, and but little money, became a menial servant to a citizen of London, who, after the death of his master, became possessed of a thousand pounds by marrying his mistress. Abounding with plenty he was now at leisure to attend the dictates of his own mind, which were soon conspicuous by pretending to foretel events. Highly favoured by the unsettled times, and his prognostications being sought for with eagerness, he soon acquired a considerable fortune.

fortune. Amongst his ignorant be-CHAP.
lievers was Cromwell, who procured 30.
a hundred pounds a year to be settled
by parliament upon him to attend his
army as a prophet, in predicting suc-
cess to his arms. The King of Swe-
den also sent him a gold chain and
medal for having mentioned him in
his Almanac in terms of favour. A-
midst all the good he predicted to o-
thers, he foresaw not his own im-
pending fall. Having in his predicti-
ons mentioned that the parliament
then sitting would soon know an end
of their power, he was committed to
prison and fined in a considerable sum,
and afterwards set in the stocks as an
imposture.

The clergy, fired at his superior
pretensions, and elated at his disgrace,
were

CHAP
30.

were determined to blast his future hopes ; from their pulpits they poured forth the most bitter invectives against his profession, branded him with diabolical epithets, and at last encouraged a man to prosecute him for a false accusation of theft, for which he was fined in a sum nearly to the amount of what he was left possessed of by the parliament.

From this time he contented himself by living upon the profits of his almanac, which he regularly published to his death, which happened in 1681, aged 79 years.

He adopted one Coley to be his son, who was called *Merlin Junior*, to whom he left also the property of his almanac ; after passing thro' no less than thirty-six impressions,

LEICESTER

IN 1682 the Charter of the Corporation was surrendered, but was restored the first year of William and Mary's reign, 1688 ; however Mr. Major, Bailiff of the Borough, refused to reassume his office, though powerfully solicited.

In this reign, notwithstanding the resolution of the king and parliament in the reign of Henry the 7th, the inhabitants of Leicester at large insisted upon their ancient privilege of electing one member to serve in parliament, and in consequence thereof elected Sir John Prettyman ; this causing a double return, the dispute was consequently brought before parliament, and upon an hearing in that house,

CHAP. house, Sir John Prettyman was admitted duly elected.
30.

SUBTERRANEAN ANTIQUITIES.

BESIDES great abundance of antique medals and coins, of silver and copper, which have been frequently found in Leicester, of the emperors Vespasian, Domitian, Trajan, Hadrian, Antonine and others, there have been found subterraneous rooms, arched over. In the reign of James the first, some workmen having occasion to dig rather deep in the ground, found some brick-work strongly cemented, which they broke through and found to be a room, floored with mosaic or tessellated pavement, and arched over with a square quarry; and at intermediate spaces were fixed earthen pipes. The length of the room was five yards and

a half by four. The small stones, CHAP.
which were ingeniously formed into 30.
figures upon the floor, were in length
about an inch, and breadth half an
inch. This was judged to be a bath
in the Romans time.

Another remarkable piece of anti-
quity was discovered about the year
1675, in digging at a house opposite
St. John's Hospital, now in the oc-
cupation of Mr. Cooper. This work
is now preserved in the cellar of that
house, and attracts the attention of
most travellers who pass through Lei-
cester. It is also a piece of chequered
work of brick and stone, but much
defaced ; and is generally understood
to be the story of Diana and Acteon;
but Mr. Cart, whose opinion was
published in the philosophical tran-
C VOL. V. sactions

C H A P.

30.

sactions in 1711, says it is the representation of that fable which says that a person finding fault with Venus, so offended her, that she in revenge engaged her son Cupid to make him fall in love with *a monster*. It seems to me to be, as Mr. Cart has observed, the figure of Cupid with his bow drawn, and a man with his arm about a monster's neck going to kiss it. The same Gentleman observes that *the monster having a head like a stag, gave occasion for it to be called the story of Ateon*. This piece is an octagon, and its diameter about one yard; and what seems worth remarking is, that the person who by digging found this curiosity, found the ground underneath it to consist chiefly of oyster-shells, to a great depth. I have taken much pains in drawing an exact representation

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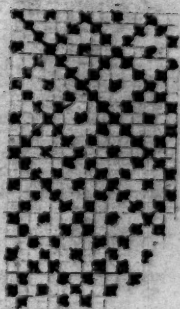
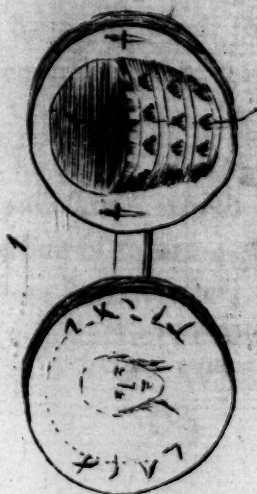
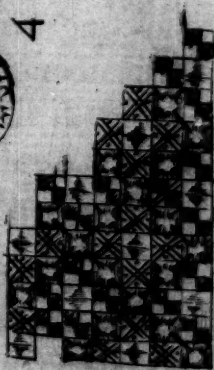
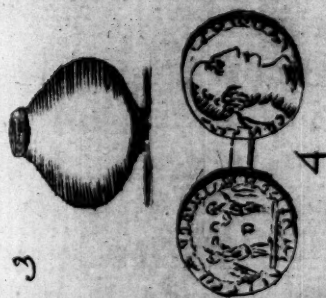
tion of it, which I have also engraved CHAP.
at the expence of much time 30. If it
be confidered by the curious as a good
copy, I fhall think myfelf fufficiently
rewarded.

In about the year 1667, fome work-
men having occafion to dig near a
place called the *Water-houfe*, now *John-
fon's Building*, about twelve feet deep,
they difcovered a beautiful floor of
mofaic work, made of lime-mortar of
a variety of colours, about fix or feven
inches thick, and about fixteen feet
long and four wide. There were alfo
fide-walls ftanding curioufly painted;
and on one fide there remained fire-
places with tunnels.

At the Bath was alfo found, about
30 years ago, a curious floor of chec-
quered work of fmall bricks, wrought

CHAP. in the most regular order with various
30. colours. And I have seen some curious brick-work, something similar to the above, taken up by the late sexton of St. Martin's, when digging a grave in the south isle of that church, about four years ago; but this was but a small fragment about a foot over.— The figures marked 2, in the annexed plate, are representations of fragments of this sort of work.

The ancients were exceedingly expert at this tessellated work, of which there are various sorts, some of glass, precious stones, marble, stone, and brick. The first of these is done at an immoderate expence of time, being of various coloured glass as small as the head of a pin, which when finished is very beautiful. The second being
costly





costly is not so common as the other, CH A P.
and is seldom performed but upon al- 30.
tar-pieces. The other are more com-
mon, and are done indiscriminately
for various purposes. All these as-
semblages of tessellated work, when
executed with judgment, have a plea-
sing effect.

Figure 1. of the annexed plate is a
representation of a piece of copper,
found also under-ground, in Leicester,
which I have engraved for its singu-
larity : copied from a copy I had of
the late Mr. Thomas Lee, of Lei-
cester. The same Gentleman had also
in his possession, which I copied, a
coin the size of figure 4. found among
some others in Leicester, but it being
defaced, no certainty could be formed
respecting it. Mr. William Astle, of

C 3 Leicester,

CHAP. Leiceſter, found a copper coin in
30. his garden, but a few weeks back,
which I think, by comparing, exactly
like it. Although the letters are very
imperfect, yet there ſeems on the head
ſide ſomething like Conſtantine ; but
it is perhaps of a much later date.

Coins of the Roman Emperors have
been found at other places in Leiceſ-
terſhire : but at Higam, in this coun-
ty, was found A. D. 1607, a curious
piece of antiquity with ſome coins.

An inhabitant of that place, per-
ceiving a large ſquare ſtone upon the
road that leads from thence to Coven-
try, had the curioſity to remove it,
when to his great ſurprize he met
with two hundred and fifty pieces of
ſilver, of the coin of Henry the third,
each weighing about three-pence.—

On

On the one side was Henry's head, CHAP. 30.
with an hand holding a Scepter in it,
circumscribed HENRICUS REX; and
on the other side, a Cross Molins be-
tween Roundels, with this inscription
around it, FVLK ON LVED. There
was also a gold ring, with a ruby in
it, another with an agate, and a third
of silver, wherein was a flat ruddy
stone engraven with Arabick charac-
ters.

Englised by Mr. Bedwell thus :

By Mahomet magnify him,
Turn from him each hand that may
hurt him.

There were also with the above,
some trinkets, which Burton calls
catch-hooks and keepers of silver, and
several links of an old-fashioned great
C 4 gold

CHAP. gold chain. It is to be observed, that
30. the money, trinkets and rings, did not lie directly under the stone, but close by the side of it, Under the stone he found some pieces of silver coin of the emperor Trajan, it being the custom of the ancients, as well as moderns, to lay under the foundation of their buildings coins of governors, or persons of note, who were immediately concerned in the intended edifice. The money found by the side of the stone is supposed to have been secreted there by a Jew in the time of king John, as those people were miserably used in that reign, principally to extort money from them. Figure 2. of the annexed plate, is a copy of the writing on the ring, spoken of above.

Figure



n° 2.

fig. 1

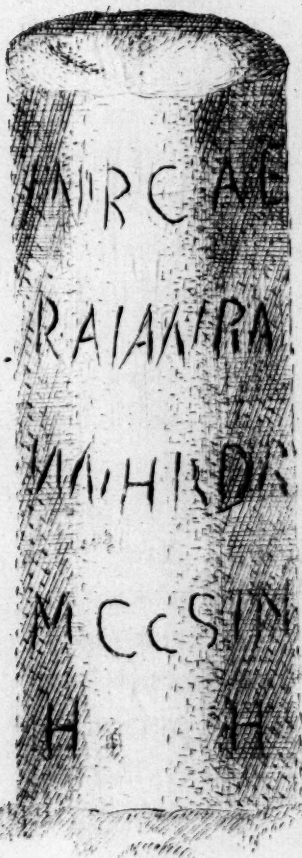


fig. 2

Figure I. of the same plate, is the CHAP.
representation of a stone, found A. D. 30.

1771, by some workman digging to make a turnpike-road in Thurmaſton lane, near Leiſceſter. The inſcription, although much defaced, ſeems to have been as follows : IMP. CÆS DIV TRAIAN PARH. F. DIVT TRAIAN HADRIAN. AVG. POT. M. COS. I. H. 74 RATÆS CXXIII. *The Emperor Cæſar of Divine Trajan the Parthian, Trajan Hadrian Auguſtes chief Prieſt, in his firſt Conſulſhip made this road to Leiſceſter.—*

This ſtone is now in the garden of the turnpike-man near the place it was found.

Mr. Cart ſays, “ At the brick-works near the horſe-fair-lees, in digging clay, the workmen do ſtill often find
Urns,

CHAP. 30. Urns, Coins, and other remains of the Romans." He made this observation about the year 1700.

In 1760, a remarkable discovery was made at Oadby, about three miles from Leicester, by some labourers digging for gravel to repair the turnpike-road there. Thomas Ludlam, one of the workmen, informs me, that about that time they were surprized at finding a human skeleton a little below the surface of the gravel, the gravel lying about three feet below the surface of the earth ; in removing which they discovered some Urns about the size of a common jordan ; in the same grave there was also the appearance of ashes, which lay in detached heaps. The discovery of this grave was succeeded by that of another

ther directly after, in which lay two human skeletons in the most regular manner, one of which seemed a much younger person than the other, the teeth being white and not in the least decayed. Afterwards similar discoveries being so frequent that they took but little notice of them, excepting one, which was about the year 1763. It was the skeleton of an uncommon large man, whose jaw-bone measured full six inches over. The same person informs me that he has been a labourer there 22 years, in which time there have not been found less than four score human skeletons in the same piece of ground. Small heaps of ashes and urns he likewise observes were as frequently found as the skeletons; in one place he found a smooth stone shaped like a fiddle's head, with a finger-board.

The

CHAP. The Urns found here had a yellow
30. ground flowered with white, some
few of a plain rusty brown, and but
a little decayed. *d*

About the year 1759, two human
Skeletons were found lying about two
feet below the surface of the earth,
near the north mill, Leicester; two
bullets, which we may conjecture
were lodged in their bodies, were also
found lying by them. Also a few
years before a human Skeleton was
found in a gravel-pit, near the abby-
mill;

d It would be deemed, perhaps, an extrava-
gant conjecture to suppose that these Skeletons
have lain in the earth ever since those violent
contentions, in these parts, by the Danes and
the forces of Alfred, & his son Edward. If
they were deposited here after any battle, I
know of no period in the English history, since
that time, that will warrant such an opinion.
However, no doubt, but others will have a
happier conjecture.

mill ; near or in the same grave were also found some curious urns.—Figures 3. in the former plate, are representations of some of the sorts of Urns which the ancients made use of to deposit in them, the ashes of their departed friends.

Mr. Goodas, who a few years back was surveyor of a turnpike-road near Leicester, found, below the surface of a bed of gravel, an oak tree, erect.

A TUMULT.

IN the fifth year of this reign, the people grew restless in two or three midland counties of England, particularly about Lutterworth, in Leicestershire, where they had been oppressed by the landed people by enclosing the fields, and taking away the right

CH A P. right to common from the industrious,
30. and most useful part of the community. They had been taught resistance from their superiors in the latter reigns. It was now time, they thought, to strain every sinew in support of those rights that had for ages been handed down to them. Altho' unsupported by the great, the plebeians took the field to the number of four thousand, some-times double that number, under the command of one John Reynolds, whom they called Captain, to obtain by force what they in vain might seek for any other way. But what are the efforts of a giddy multitude, under no martial restraint: After they had roved about the neighbouring counties for a month, destroying the fences of enclosures and parks, a proclamation was issued from the king expressing
his

his unwillingness to proceed against CHAP.
them by martial law, and likewise 30.
giving them hopes of mercy as well as
redress of their grievances, which they
despised. Special commissions were
then issued forth for their trials, when
their Captain and some of their ring-
leaders were tried and executed for
high-treason.

CHAP.

31.

CHAP. 31.

James II.—Earls of Leicester continued.

JAMES II.

ANOTHER son of the unhappy Charles I. succeeded his brother in the government of these kingdoms. Had he been a dissembler in religion, he might, no doubt, long and peaceably enjoyed the crown unmolested; but being a bigot to his religion, that of the church of Rome, and regardless, in consideration of it, of the temporal advancement of his family, glaringly avowed a church, which the people of this land had been taught to believe absolutely inconsistent to the dictates of God. This brought on him a storm, which seemed to threaten him

him with destruction. He was there-
fore glad to quit an eminence which
the ambitious have purchased at the
price of thousands of the human race.
Royalty to him was but a secondary
consideration. This happened about
four years after the death of his brother.

EARLS of LEICESTER continued.

ROBERT SIDNEY, a descendant of
Sir William Sidney, who was cham-
berlain to Henry the second, and son
of Mary, sister to Robert Dudley the
last-mentioned earl of Leicester, whose
husband Henry Sidney was cup-bearer
to king Edward the sixth, had the

D VOL. V. reputation

* An inflexible intention to introduce po-
pery into England, even at the expence of
cruelty, and what has been said of this prince
above, sufficiently mark his character,

C H A P. reputation of a great soldier, and was
31. for his martial spirit created lord Sidney, of Penshurst, in Kent, by James the first, and made lord Chamberlain to the queen. And the third of the same reign he was advanced to the title of lord Lisle, and afterwards to the earldom of Leicester, being a descendant of a sister of the last earl, Robert Dudley. At his death, A. D. 1626, his only son and heir——Robert succeeded him in honours and estate.— This earl had the reputation of a sage counsellor, and was employed by king Charles the first in several embassies, and was of his privy council. This earl died in the reign of Charles the second, and was succeeded by his eldest son Philip, who married a daughter of the earl of Salisbury. This earl was succeeded by Robert his son, who
by

by Elizabeth daughter of John, earl CHAP.
of Bridgewater, had Philip, who suc- 31.
ceeded him. This earl dying without
heirs, John, his brother, became earl
of Leicester, &c. and the last earl of
this family.

CHAP.

32.

CHAP. 32.

*William and Mary. — Smith. — Shaw.
Sir Thomas White, Knight.*

WILLIAM and MARY,

1688-9. **W**ERE declared King and Queen soon after the abdication of James. The former was Stadtholder of the united provinces, and son of Henrietta-Maria, daughter of Charles the first; and the latter was consort to William, and daughter of James the abdicator. James made some fruitless attempts to gain, by force, the crown, which he had voluntarily quitted: He landed in Ireland, where his army was beaten by his son-in-law's, who was also there in person. The queen conducted the public affairs

fairs, during the king's absence, with CHAP.
32.
applause. Mary died after reigning
five years. *f* From her death William
reigned alone, and not destitute of
those perplexities which are common-
ly attendant on such elevated stations.
He died in the fifty-second year of his
age. *g*

C 3 HENRY

f As in the actions of her life there were no
vices to diminish the amiableness of her dis-
position, she died universally beloved: the
people mourned at her death, not from cus-
tom, but from love and gratitude: At the
interment of her body the great Bell, in every
church in England, was ordered to be tolled
hours.

g William had the reputation of an excel-
lent general. Happy amid' the toil of war
his bliss seemed centered in its dangers.—
Though not always successful he was a stran-
ger to dismay. The revolution, which his ac-
cession brought, has been almost deified as the
most glorious in our annals; but a Female
has lately dared to shake the pillars on which
that idol stands, which was reared by the pe-
netration or the prejudice of almost an age.

Who was generally esteemed the wonder of his age, for his extraordinary memory, and for his eloquent and practical preaching, was born at Market-Bosworth, in this county.— Being chosen Lecturer of St. Clement Danes, London, at an early age, his youth and singular abilities attracted amazing multitudes. Nor were his numerous auditors of the meaner sort, for he was often honoured with those of the first eminence ; among whom he was esteemed the best preacher of his time. His Sermons were no sooner announced to the world than bought up with singular avidity. But death, the invariable lot of animated nature, seized him in the moment of pleasing popularity ; just when his expectati-
ons

S A M U E L S H A W.

51

ons were rising with his genius : ACHAP.
 Genius ! that would have deserved the 32.
 most exalted place of his profession.—
 He died in the 34th year of his age.

S A M U E L S H A W.

A. D. 1695, died Samuel Shaw,
 M. A. who was presented to the
 Rectory of Long-Whatton, in this
 county, by the protector Cromwell,
 and was afterwards confirmed in it by
 a grant from Charles the second ; yet
 by the passing of the Bartholomew
 Act he was ejected. He being then
 embarrassed in his circumstances, and
 a vacancy happening in the grammar-
 school, at Ashby-de-la-zouch, he was
 chosen Master of it without much dif-
 ficulty, as he bore the character of a
 learned and amiable man. He was

D 4

licensed

CHAP.^{32.} licenced by the archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Gilbert Sheldon, and the bishop of Lincoln, Dr. Thomas Barlow, to teach School without the usual restrictions : and the latter publicly declared that he was happy to have so good a man in his Diocese on any terms. The school had long been in disrepute, the house neglected, and part in ruins ; but his close application and abilities soon rescued it from contempt. His fame was soon spread beyond the neighbouring Counties : boys were brought him from every quarter. He employed two assistants, and had seldom less than 160 scholars at a time ; several of whom became the first characters in Church and State. He wrote a book of meditations, which was much applauded.

The

IN the year 1700, four Corporations, who were included in this gift, preferred a bill in Chancery against the City of Coventry, respecting the improved estates of that gentleman's donation; and as numbers in Leicester have experienced the happy effects of his bounty, I have judged it necessary to give my readers some account of its rise and progress, not doubting but it will be acceptable.

Sir Thomas White was a citizen of London, and belonged to the company of Merchant Taylors; and in the year 1546, did, from a noble intention, pay into the hands of the Mayor and Commonality of the city of Coventry, fourteen hundred pounds, to purchase

CHAP. purchase lands, the rents of which
32. were to be paid to Sir Thomas during
the remainder of his life, and then to
be applied as under. The purchase
brought him in annually 7*cl.* and he
dying in the year 1556, his Will di-
rected that there should be given out
of it, first to twelve poor men of the
city of Coventry forty shillings, per
year, each, free gift; next he willed
forty pounds of the residue to four
young men of the same place, trades-
men, 1*ol.* each, for nine years, with-
out interest, provided they were free
of the same city, and gave security. —
When the nine years were expired,
his will directed that the said trust
were to pay yearly twenty pounds
each, to two young men, free of Co-
ventry, to be continued for 30 years,
each holding the money for nine years

as

as before, without interest. And at CHAP. 30.
the expiration of that time they were

to pay one other freeman of Coventry
forty pounds for nine years, without
interest, and so on as before, for ever.

In the second year, after the expiration
of the thirty years, it was also ordered
that they were to pay to the Town of
Northampton forty pounds, the Cor-

poration of which was directed to lend
the same to four young freemen, inha-
bitants of that place, ten pounds each,
for nine years, as in the first instance,
and so on to other four young men for
ever. In the third year, after the ex-

piration of the thirty years, they were
also ordered to pay forty pounds to the
Town of Leicester, to be disposed of
in the same manner as that at Nor-
thampton. In the fourth year the
same sum and in the like manner to

Nottingham.

CHAP. Nottingham. And in the fifth to
32. Warwick. And the sixth to Coventry, where the whole forty pounds were then to be paid to one freeman of the City, for nine years, and so on for ever. It was willed that no person was to have it twice ; and to be paid in, one month after the decease of the principal ; and the person to be chosen without partiality.

The estate being vastly improved in the year 1700, the Corporations preferred a bill in Chancery for an equitable distribution of the improved rents, which upon hearing was given against the Corporations ; but they not being satisfied with this decision brought their claim before the house of Lords, the ensuing year ; when it was settled to their advantage. It happened,

happened, upon examining the estate CHAP.
32.
and settling the accounts in the year
1709, that the estate was improved to
the value of seven hundred and nine
pounds, two shillings and two-pence.
It was therefore settled that for the first
year, A. D. 1709, beginning at the
25th of March, the whole of the 709l.
2s. 2d. should go to the city of Co-
ventry, to be disposed of to the pur-
pose following, viz. to one hundred
and twenty-one poor men, forty shil-
lings each, and to one other poor
man twenty-three shillings, ^N in all
243l. 3s. to be given according to
the deed of free-gift of the donor.—
And 42l. 4s. 2d. to be put out in
free loan according also to the donors
intention, and the rest was given to
the Merchant Taylors Company, a
certain portion to the Mayor, Re-
corder;

C H A P corder, and Aldermen of Coventry ;

32.

and a division also of it to the Steward and town Clerk of that city; the whole amounting to the sum of 709l. 2s. 2d. This sum the succeeding year, beginning the 25th of March, was to be divided as follows : To the City of Coventry, 243l. 3s. to be given to poor men as before. To the Merchant Taylors, Mayor, &c. 60l. 15s. & to Northampton, 405l. 4s. 2d. then to Leicester, so on each succeeding year to Nottingham & Warwick.

The sum now in the gift of the Mayor and Aldermen of Leicester is aggregated to a great amount, and is lent to tradesmen freemen of Leicester, in sums of fifty and forty pounds ; no person being allowed to have more than one fifty and one forty during his life,

life, and these sums never at one ^{C H A P.} time ; no petition of that nature being ^{30.} complied with till after the payment of the first loan. The Corporation of Leicester have been very careful that posterity should not suffer from their negligence or indulgence in lending their money upon hazardous security ; and I believe very few instances have happened detrimental to the interest of succeeding generations. ^e

Some years ago, when the Corporation of Leicester built their new Exchange, they intended to have perpetuated the memory of this great Benefactor, by placing his statue in a niche they left for that purpose, in the front

^e There is about 7500*l.* upon loan in Leicester without interest, all which has arisen from the gift of Sir T. White.

CHAP. front of the same building ; but whether the same expressive sentiments of
30.

gratitude have not since prevailed, or some other more preventive cause has hindered its completion I cannot determine. That the predecessors of this Body of gentlemen possess the warmest sense of the blessings, through his means, which have been given to the hand of industry here, the following lines will in some measure testify.— They are written under his Arms, which are placed in the Town-Hall parlour in Leicester, where are holden the Corporation courts of Aldermen and Common-Council.

Lo ! here a ship, a merchant royal fraught,
With store of wealth from whose rich sides
unfought

Plenty of metal hath been largely given,
White's name, White's gifts, White's soul,
White's saint in heaven ;

Whose

The GIFT of Sir T. WHITE, Knt. 61

Whose Arms we (least we shew ourselves
ingrate) CHAP. 32.

Properly blazon'd here do celebrate :

The which eternal monument shall be
Of White's renown, to all posterity.

Die then, & rot, & stink, you hulks of shame,
Who charg'd with wealth have nothing but
a name

Of dying rich, whose tombs shall never speak
Your praise, one White shall all your credit
break.

CHAP.

33.

CHAP. 33.

*Anne. — B. Beveridge. — Dr. Caver —
A Meteor.*

A N N E,

THE youngest daughter of James the second, was next proclaimed Queen. She was then married to George prince of Denmark, by whom she had several children, but none that survived her : He was not like William the third, suffered to share the Crown with his consort, but was made Lord High Admiral of England. During this reign the honor of the British arms was carried to an amazing height, by the great duke of Marlborough, the duke of Ormond, Sir George Rooke, and Gen Stanhope.

hope. Historians, who are happy in ^{C H A P.} describing battles, will dwell upon ^{33.} the almost unequalled achievements of a Marlborough, and send forth his praise to after ages, in strains the most captivating.

Towards the latter end of her reign she felt the bitter shafts of envy wound her peaceful disposition.—Her nobles were torn and rent by faction. Her piety and meekness, her charitable & generous disposition, made her lament her inability of restoring that harmony she so ardently desired. At length the hour of death approached; the prospect of which she seemed to cherish as a sure means of relieving her from the turbulency of ambition, and the uncertainty of bliss, in this world of disquietude. Being seized with a

E 2

kind

CHAP. kind of lethargy, she expired in August, 1714. *f*

33.

B. BEVERIDGE.

THE name of Beveridge will adorn the biographic page, when time shall have erased numbers from those inspiring volumes. William Beveridge, D. D. was born at Barrow, in this county, where he received the rudiments of an education that does honor to his country. In 1653, at the age of 15, he was entered of St. John's college, Cambridge, where he passed the usual course of study with great applause.

f The rectitude of her intentions was conspicuous on all occasions; no sordid passion possessed her breast.—— Her liberality to the churches, out of her own settlement, will indicate the magnificence of her soul to the latest age—— At her death the people mourned, they wept, pouring forth the tear of gratitude with more than filial affection.

applause. At 18, he wrote a treatise C H A P.
upon the excellence of oriental lan- 33.
guages ; particularly the Hebrew,
Chaldee, Syriac, Arabic, and Sama-
ritan : and also a Syriac grammer.—
Before he left the University he had
the pleasure of seeing his juvenile
works approved of by the best masters
there. He took his degree of Batche-
lor in 1656, and that of Master of
Arts in 1659. The elevated notions
he entertained of the importance and
dignity of the Gospel, together with
his early and unaffected piety; gained
him the love, and esteem of all good
men. Soon after his taking holy or-
ders, he was presented to the vicarage
of Ealing, Middlesex, which he re-
signed on his being chosen, by the
Lord Mayor and Aldermen of London,
Rector of St. Peter's Cornhill.—Here

C H A P. the ministerial function was displayed,
33. consistent with its venerable institution.—His discourses, though perfect models in purity of language, were instructive to the most unletter'd auditor. His singular zeal, and almost incessant labour, in discharging the duties of his important office, had the most happy effect; and procured him the reputation of the--*the Restorer of Primitive Piety*;—and he was an admirable pattern for the Clergy to copy after. When such were the qualifications of this excellent divine, it was no wonder that his Diocesan, Dr. Hinchman should approve, and reward his merit, by presenting him to the prebendary of Chiswick, in the Cathedral of St. Paul's. Also bishop Compton, the successor of bishop Hinchman, appointed him Archdeacon of Colchester. In

In 1691, when some of the Bishops^{CHAP.}
refused to take the oaths to king Wil-^{32.}
liam, Dr. Beveridge was offered the
See of Bath and Wells, in the room
of the pious bishop Ken; but his soul
was far beyond the power of tempta-
tion: he refused to accept the flatter-
ing offer, at the expense of his wor-
thy friend.

Upon the accession of queen Anne,
he was advanced to the bishoprick of
St. Asaph, A. D. 1704, but died
four years after.

This character is pleasing at every
view. He possessed the most eminent
virtues with a well-cultivated mind.—
I see as it were the inimitable portrait,
but want abilities to convey a just idea
of the original. Imperfect as are my
best endeavours, yet I am impressed

CH A P. to say, that his soul was superior to the
 33. shadow of injustice. In him the most
 amiable meekness was so sweetly
 blended with the dignity of his pro-
 fession, that a display of harmony was
 ever conspicuous. As he rose in ho-
 nor he seemed to fall in his own esti-
 mation. Pious without ostentation,
 and an inimitable pattern of humility
 he left one of the most elevated stati-
 ons with a mind perfectly at ease, and
 blest with the approbation of a people
 he had long served, in expectation of
 a more eminent dignity in the abodes
 of immaculate existence.

WILLIAM CAVE, D. D.

WAS a native of this county. His
 learned writings have been repeatedly
 translated into Latin and French for
 the use of foreigners. When he had
 passed

.passed the usual forms of grammar C H A P
33.
learning, he was sent to St. John's
College, Cambridge, where he made
a rapid progress in his studies, took
his degrees, and entered into holy
Orders. He was first prefer'd to the
living of Islington, near London, then
to the valuable living of All hallows,
Thames-street, and soon after pro-
moted to a Canonry at Windsor.—
These preferments settled him in easy
circumstances. and left him without
a wish for any higher or more profit-
able stations; he therefore devoted his
hours of vacancy, from his ministerial
office, to the study of ecclesiastical
history; particularly the fathers of the
four first centuries. The amazing
progress he made in these studies ex-
ceeded every thing that had been done
by his predecessors. He also published

H A P.^a a book on primitive christianity, excellent beyond comparison. Unrivalled in this walk of literature, his hours past unembittered by sad reflection, but comforted by the pleasing thought of having lived usefully in the service of his God, by promoting the knowledge of Christianity. He died at Windsor, A. D. 1713.

A M E T E O R,

WAS seen in Leicester, A. D. 1718, March the 19th, which appeared like a large ball of fire in the air, in its seeming passage to the earth.

Sir GEORGE BEAUMONT,

BARONET, was a descendant of the ancient and distinguished family of that name, and was long an ornament
to

to this county. Possess of the esteem C H A P. 33.
of that illustrious princess, queen
Anne, he was honoured with repeated marks of her royal favour. He held under her several places of public trust; but not changing his sentiments with the caprice of those times of discontent, which happened towards the close of her reign, he lost all his offices which were dependant on government; for the loss of these he was rewarded with the plaudits of his country, especially in Leicester, where his character had been long the pleasing theme of its inhabitants. He represented that Town in nine successive parliaments, with an integrity which does honor to his memory: some of his constituents live and support the assertion with a grateful remembrance. At his death, which happened A. D.

1737,

CH A P. 17 37, in the seventy-third year of his
33. age, the people, in these parts, gave
his memory unusual tokens of affection.--“ He possessed (says one who gave
his character with the warmth of
friendship), every virtue that adorns a
publick station: disinterested, just, easy
of access, affable, humane, benefi-
cent. He exercised (continues he) all
the qualities amiable in private life,
of an understanding quick and lively,
of a judgment quick and penetrating,
and in conversation obliging, polite,
and entertaining. A patron of the
poor and a friend of human kind, he
lived beloved, and died lamented.”

CHAP.

*George I.—Lawrence Carter, Knight.
All-Saints Church.*

GEORGE I.

UPON the death of queen Anne, was proclaimed king, and arrived from his electorate dominions the 18th of September. His accession was followed by a rebellion, raised, to place James, the son of king James the second, upon the throne. This attempt, which at first seemed to favor the claim of the young prince, proved unsuccessful, and brought some of its leaders to the block. It is generally believed that the king thought his elevation not agreeable to the wishes of all his people, which it was observable

1714.

CHAP. 35. able he endeavoured to obtain by a mild and equitable government.

After the commencement of a war with Spain, in which Sir George Bing gained a great victory over the Spanish fleet in the Mediterranean, and some other occurrences favorable to the British arms, his majesty going to visit his German dominions, was taken ill on the road towards Hanover, and died two days after, at his brother's palace, at Osnaburg, on the 11th of June. g

Sir LAWRENCE CARTER, Knt.

THIS gentleman was long an inhabitant of Leicester, and resided in the Newark,

g George the first was a plain man in his person ; but grave and king-like in his deportment ; and acquired the character of an able General, a wise politician ; and, above all, a just and merciful prince.

ALL-SAINTS CHURCH.

75

Newark, where Leicester College CHAP.
stood : his dwelling-house being, in 35.
part, built from the ruins of that edi-
fice. He was chosen a represent-
ative of the same borough three times.
He was then advanced to the dignity
of a Baron of the Court of Exchequer,
and enjoyed that distinguished mark
of royal favor till his death, which
happened A. D. 1744, leaving be-
hind him the reputation of an upright
Judge.

ALL-SAINTS CHURCH,

LEICESTER, is but a small church,
although the boundaries of its parish
are not inconsiderable, on account of
the depopulated parishes of Leicester
being added to it. Nothing very ma-
terial of its vicissitudes have been
handed down to posterity. Hence also

CHAP a solemn procession was made to St.
35. Margaret's annually on Whitsun-Monday.

In this church was buried, A. D. 1520, Thos. Newcomb, Bell-Founder, who cast the six great bells of St. Margaret's, Leicester, long reputed the best peal of six bells in the kingdom.

In this church-yard was buried Mr. Ald. Newton, A. D. 1762, a gentleman who was the founder of the following Charity-schools :

At Ashby-de-la-zouch 26l. per annum, for the cloathing and educating a certain number of children. Also the same at Bedford, Buckingham, Northampton, Huntingdon, Hertford and St. Neotes. At Earl-Shilton 20l.

20l. 16s. per ann. and at Leicester CH A P.
the sum of 3450l. out of his personal 34.
estate for the same purposes ; but the
chicanery of law, respecting the omi-
sion of a word, or a misconstrued sen-
tence, has *cruelly* deprived the children
of the necessitous in Leicester from
that support, which his bounty had
provided for them. Surely, this is not
the wisdom of our boasted laws ?

i It is computed that he left lands & money
to the amount of 14,000l. for charitable
uses.

CHAP.

35.

CHAP. 35.

George II.—*Loyalty.*—*A Mystery.*
 —*An Inundation.*—*Wbiston.*—
Sheepshead.—*Hubbard.*—*Leicester.*
 —*A Murder.*—*Joshua Keyling.*—
William Proudman.—*A Miracle.*—
A Subscription.—*Executions.*—
An Earthquake.—*A High-Wind.*—
Rev. Mr. Cart.—*The Exchange, &c.*

G E O R G E II.

1727.

SON of George the first, was proclaimed the day after the news of the late king's death reached England. The nation was then at war with Spain; but peace was proclaimed about two years after. In 1739, war was declared against Spain, and was continued with various success until the

the year 1743, in which his majesty in C H A P.
35.
person, accompanied by the duke of
Cumberland, his son, headed the al-
lied army, in the field of Dettingen,
and gain'd an important victory. In
1744 war was declared against France,
and the year following the young pre-
tender came to Scotland, and there
soon obtained so considerable a force
as to take the field, in favour of his
Father, whom he caused to be pro-
claimed king. He at first gained some
advantages over the king's forces;
but precipitately marching into the
very centre of England with an in-
considerable force, he was compelled
by the duke of Cumberland, to retreat
as hastily back again; and being
warmly attacked, at Culloden-house,
was completely routed, and himself
became a miserable wanderer, in the

CH A P. inhospitable highlands of Scotland,
 35. until his escape was effected. Numbers of his unhappy followers suffered death for their temerity.

In 1749, peace was proclaimed, but continued only five years, when war was declared against France, in which, under the administration of Mr. Pitt, were such a series of successes that will ever dignify the honor of the British arms. Amidst these glorious conquests his majesty died on the 26th of October, aged seventy-seven years. *b*

LOYALTY.

b This king also had the reputation of a great soldier. Altho' he were not distinguished by very shining abilities; yet he was well acquainted with the political interests of the European powers. Born and bred a foreigner, he was attached to his native country, which occasioned some unfavourable reflections upon his character; but it is certain that
 several

A MYSTERY.

81

LOYALTY:

CHAP.

35.

WHEN the rebellion broke out in 1745, this county honourably distinguished itself by raising a regiment in support of his majesty's family, which was sent to Newcastle, to assist in crushing the rebellion.

A MYSTERY.

SOON after the rebellion a mysterious affair happened at Leicester, which is likely to remain an hidden secret.— Faction has long been principel'd in the hearts of men, accompanied by virulence and detraction. In Leicester

F 3

her

Several years before his death, he obtained his people's love, in a much more eminent degree, than in the former part of his long reign : and at his death his subjects indicated a sincere affection for him by their general decent deportment.

CHAP. her baneful power has, alas! too
35. long, shackled the minds of individuals. Every succeeding parliament, lamentable experience shews, imbitters the social comforts, between kindred, neighbours, and friends. The business of an election about this period had so inflamed some of the incendiaries of that town to paste up, against the walls of several public places, treasonable papers of a very atrocious nature; and the two contending parties shewed great zeal in discovering the offenders, to be of the contrary interest to themselves. Men, women, and children, took an active part in the contention; invectives of the most horrid kind were thrown out against each other, without the least reserve. In short, things were carried to such a height, that a Mr. Norton,

a lawyer, a man of fair character, with CHAP.
 some others, were, by the Corpora- 35.
 tion's friends, suspected to be the au-
 thors (although they sent an early ac-
 count of the treasonable papers to Go-
 vernment) and were taken before the
 magistrates of the Borough. When
 under examination, to the astonish-
 ment of every beholder, Mr. Norton
 faltered in his reply, became speech-
 less, and died without a groan, Feb.
 1st, 1738.

In this awful manner was the
 tongue of justice silenced, while each
 accusing party stood amazed, and cer-
 tainty for ever hidden from the call of
 penetration.

AN INUNDATION.

IN Sept. in the year 1743, being
 F 4 the

CHAP. the second race-day at Leicester, the
35. most alarming heavy rain, attended with dreadful flashes of lightning, happened, just as the diversion had concluded, that had ever been known in that place. The streets in a short space of time had the appearance of a river, the barrels in the cellars were on float, and the inhabitants, in the lower part of the town especially, were in the most dreadful apprehensions for their lives ; because the waters swelled so fast as to threaten them with immediate death. But happily, in about two hours time, the angry element became serene, and the waters returned, thro' their wonted channels, to their destined homes.

WILLIAM WHISTON, A. M.

DIED A. D. 1752 ; an associate of
the

the great Sir Isaac Newton. He was ^{C H A P.}
 born in this county A. D. 1667, and ^{35.}
 educated at Clare-Hall, Cambridge,
 where he made great progress in the
 mathematics, and the Cartesian system
 of philosophy. But when his own
 discernment began to supersede the
 injunctions of a director, he found
 that Des Cartes' system was more
 beautiful than solid. But embracing
 the philosophy of our countryman,
 the immortal Newton, he was soon
 taken into that great man's friend-
 ship, who appointed him is deputy in
 the mathematical chair. After pub-
 lishing a system or theory of the earth,
 on the Newtonian principles, he en-
 tered into holy Orders, and was pre-
 sented by the bishop of Norwich to a
 valuable living in Suffolk; and suc-
 ceeding Sir Isaac as professor of ma-
 thematics,

CHAP. 35. thematics, he published his chronology of the Old Testament.

He was appointed preacher of Mr. Boyle's Lectures for the year 1707, and gave general satisfaction; but having afterwards, in his lectures at Cambridge, denied the divinity of Christ, he was expelled that University, and stripped of all his sacerdotal employments. He was prosecuted also in the spiritual court, but received no punishment, Queen Anne refusing to confirm the sentence.

Altho' his rash conduct deprived him of a genteel income, he felt no inconvenience on that account: Being much esteemed by Queen Caroline, lord Chancellor King, Mr. Pope, Mr. Walpole, Mr. Addison, and many other eminent persons, he lived upon

upon a competency, by their bounty, CHAP.
and the sale of his own works. 35.

Upon the decline of life he again took to preaching, in an anabaptist-meeting, and died a member of that congregation in Rutlandshire — He was a man of extensive knowledge, but a bigot to his own opinions, which grew upon him in his latter years to an unamiable degree.

S H E E P S H E A D.

THE last day of June, A. D. 1753, a fire broke out at this village, which continued burning twenty-four hours, notwithstanding all possible means were tried to stop its ravages : twelve dwelling houses were consumed, besides barns, stables, stacks of hay, and corn ; the damage amounting to upwards of 2000l.

HUBBARD.

CHAP. H U B B A R D.

35.

AT the affizes for this county, which ended the 18th of August, 1753, the Rev. Mr. Hubbard received sentence of death for robbing Mrs. Burbage, of Melton. On the day the robbery was committed he dined with Mrs. Burbage at Oakham, whom he followed at a distance for some miles towards home; he then disguising himself, with a cloak, and visor, rode up to her, and ordered her to deliver her money, which she complying with he rode off; but he was detected by Mrs. Burbage having a knowledge of his horse. In consideration of his function he was transported.

L E I C E S T E R.

ON Monday the 8th of April, 1754,
being

being a few days before an election for C H A P.
35.
this borough, two desperate mobs arose and fought with truncheons in the streets to the endangering several of their lives ; and in the night, of the same day, most of the windows in the town were broken belonging to the principal inhabitants. The next day the town had rather the appearance of desolation, very many houses having neither doors, windows, or shutters ; and others having their windows planked up, produced a scene as unusual as distressing.

The 14th of June following, in Leicester, between the hours of eight and ten, there was a remarkable heavy shower of rain, attended with incessant claps of thunder, and very alarming lightning, which was followed with

a

CHAP. a heavy hail-storm, during which was
35. seen a ball of fire, which divided into particles, and vanished without doing any damage.

In the spring of the year 1756, Count Beuville, and about 30 French Officers, who were taken prisoners prior to the declaration of war, were sent to Leicester, where they remained till they were exchanged in Oct. 1757. During their stay at Leicester it was computed that they expended 9000*l*. some of them being gentlemen of the first rank in France. For their genteel behaviour they were much esteemed by the inhabitants of Leicester, and they mingled in all polite assemblies, with, as it were, a native agreeableness.

Wheat was sold in Leicester market
in

in 1757, for 9s. per strike; and in consequence of the high price of corn the people grew tumultuous. In Leicester they forced the corn from the inns into the market, but offered no injury to the person of any one. At Mountsorrel a mob destroyed a bolting-mill, from whence they went to Sileby, and Loughborough, and likewise destroyed the bolting mills in those places. In other parts of the county disturbances of the like kind happened.

CHAP.

35.

A M U R D E R.

JUNE 22, 1754, one Mary Street, who lived at Nottingham, was found in a ditch, with her throat cut, and with several stabs in her breast and face, and one finger almost cut off, at Great-Glen, in this county, by a little boy who was looking for birds-nests :

CHAP. 35. nests : and although the magistrates were very vigilant on this occasion the murderer was never discovered.

JOSHUA KEYLING.

A common soldier in lord George Bentinck's regiment of foot, who stood centry at the Magazine, Leicester, about the hour of twelve at night, Jan. 22, 1758, was murdered, the contents of his own piece being shot into his body; the ball entered a little below his naval. Although a man was seen to run away from whence the centry stood, when the gun was discharged, yet the murderer was never detected.

WILLIAM PROUDMAN,

A poor labouring man, at Bar/ston,
in

in this county, was murdered by one **C H A P.**
Hall, on Sunday the twenty-6th of ^{35.}
March, 1758, for which he was
hanged.

A M I R A C L E.

IN December, 1760, as a labour-
ing man was feeing a well 20 yards
deep, at Thringstone, in this county,
the side gave way and fell in upon
him ; in which situation he continu-
ed 11 hours, while some colliers were
removing the earth from him ; which
when accomplished they found the
poor man alive, and when taken out
of the well he was able to walk, not-
withstanding the bruises he received
from the weight of earth, &c.

A SUBSCRIPTION.

A . D. 1759, the corporation of
G VOL. V. Leicester,

CHAP. Leicester formed themselves into a
35. committee, to raise supplies of men
for his majesty's service ; and by placing a handsome sum at the head of the subscription, their laudable attempt was crowned with the happiest success : as the gentlemen in the county liberally followed their highly commended example ; by which means a great number of recruits were raised for the service of their country.

EXECUTIONS.

A. D. 1761, a young man and his reputed wife were hanged in Leicester for the murder of an old traveling pedlar. It appeared that they at first had no intention to murder ; but after they had robbed him they could not discharge themselves from him, which was the occasion of their perpetrating

petrating the horrid deed, for which CHAP. 35.
they suffered. The woman had been well educated, and was a sensible woman, and persisted in her innocence to the last. On the morning of the execution, when they were pinioning her arms in the gaol, she fainted away, but recovering, she behaved with amazing fortitude ; and with an apparent innocent composure cried out, “ My God died to appease a multitude, and why should I repine.”

EARL FERRERS,

Also about this time made his exit at tyburn, for shooting Mr. Johnson, his steward. He was a nobleman that sprang from the most honourable and ancient ancestry, whose noble and virtuous deeds are often

G 2 enrolled

CHAP 35. enrolled in those illustrious pages that display the heroic actions of our country.

This unhappy peer possessed natural endowments that seemed calculated to adorn the cabinet and the camp ; but by a wrong bias he dissipated the precious hours of youth to unlimited excesses. Intemperance at last became habitual, breeding the seeds of rancour, revenge, and an ungovernable disposition, which in the end made him commit a crime that nature reprobates. But enough, the present age requires no recital of this gloomy tale : the particulars of which cannot be erased from the memory. And instead of transmitting it down to after times. let us bid it an eternal rest.

An

ON the last day of Sept. 1750, a severe shock of an earthquake was felt in Leicester, and its vicinity, which created a general alarm. It happened about half an hour after 12 at noon, and was perceived, generally, in the county, in most parts of Lincolnshire, and part of Northamptonshire. The houses tottered, plates and glasses fell from the shelves; and slates, tiles, and some chimnies fell from the houses; but happily no greater mischief was done. In some churches, where service was not over, (it being of a Sunday) the people ran from their devotions in the utmost consternation.—The shock was attended with a rumbling noise.—A certain lawyer, in Leicester, who had

CHAP.^{35.} employed his two clerks in his office, as on another day, was so terrified with the shock, and the warm reproofs of his mother, for paying no deference to the Lord's day, that he exclaimed, "*Yes, yes, for God's sake give over ! For God's sake give over !--* and remained for a time flung with the impropriety of his conduct,

Aweful, and oftentimes terrible are these convulsions of the earth ; whether we consider them as natural causes, or alarming indications of the wrath of an injured God :--How vain are man's efforts to escape such tremendous operations : The GOOD, only, are alone capable of composure amid' the shock and ruin of a trembling world !

St. Mary's church-steeple, in Leicester, was cracked almost from the top to the bottom by an excessive high wind, March 15th, 1757. In consequence of this accident a new spire of brick-work was erected within it, and bandages of iron were put round it to prevent its falling.--Much damage was also done in Leicestershire by this hurricane.—St. Mary's steeple was, a few years after this, damaged by lightning.

Rev. Mr. CART,

VICAR of St. Martin's, was a gentleman who took some pains to bring to light the clouded history of Leicester. The reader must have observed several quotations from this gentle-

G 4

man's

C H A P. man's industry in the foregoing memoirs; they were taken from an account he sent to B Willis, in answer to some questions respecting the town of Leicester. The manuscript is now in the Bib. Bod. Oxon. He died A. D. 1740.

A very singular circumstance happened, while this gentleman was vicar of St. Martin's. The Rev. Mr. Jackson, who was then Confrator of Wigston-Hospital; being not so orthodox a divine as Mr. Cart, was not suffered, by this gentleman, to preach the evening sermon, in his church, as is usual for the Confrator so to do: the sexton having orders not to admit him into the pulpit, which he obeyed, on Mr. Jackson's attempting it. This conduct of Mr. Cart's being
applauded

applauded by his parishioners, they, CHAP.
with the coporation, brought on a 35.
trial, which ended in Mr. Jackson's
being silenced from preaching in that
place.

This gentleman was a great advocate for the trinitarian doctrine.

The EXCHANGE,

LEICESTER, was built A. D. 1749, by the corporation of that place; the lower part of which was intended as shambles for the town butchers; but it was but a short time used for that purpose. The upper rooms, one of which is spacious, and rather elegantly furnished, were intended, and are used to supply the place of the old Gainsborough. Here the magistrates for the borough, assemble on certain days,

CH A P. days, to determine such judicial mat-
35. ters which are brought before them.
In the year 1759, the corporation of
Leicester gave a splendid entertain-
ment at the 'Change, to the duke
of Grafton, and the officers of the
Suffolk militia, who then lay in Lei-
cester.

Under this article it may be neces-
sary to take notice of the Gainso-
rough, and shambles, which stood
also in the market-place prior to this
building.—In the upper rooms of the
first of these, the magistrates assembled
on fairs and market-days, to transact
their business. The lower rooms
were used as shops, except one of
them, which was kept as a dungeon
for criminals: On the top of this
building was a handsome turret which
overlooked the market.

The

S

The shambles was but a modern CHAP.
building when destroyed, and it was 35.
equal to most; both for utility and
ornament. Its fate was in some
measure decreed, by the caprice of a
leading alderman or two, who thought
it an obstacle to their houses. The
ruins of this building were used
to make the foundation for the
'Change. The shambles, which now
remain in Leicester, near St. Ni-
cholas' church, were built for the
week-day market, but they have been
long disused for that purpose. There
was another public building in Lei-
cester, call'd Lord's-place: It was
formerly noted for being the place of
entertainment for notable person-
ages. It was once the property of the
earl of Huntingdon, and afterwards
was

CHAP. was purchased by the corporation,
35. who sold it to Mr. Simon Barwell in
1702, and was then pulled down.

CHAP.

CHAP. 36.

George III.—Simpson.—Nicholas Richmond.—Lord Granby.—The king's thanks to the Leicestershire militia.—Andrews.—A Riot.—Bribery.—A Miracle.—Leicester-Infirmary.—Records of Leicester.—James Wilev, Esq.—Leicester High-Cross.—A Tumult —A Fire.—Relief.—Ludlam.—Lee.

GEORGE III.

THE particulars of this reign must be left to those who survive his death, when, no doubt, at least his virtues will illumne the British annals. The king of Denmark, who married his majesty's sister, Matilda, was at Leicester the beginning of

CHAP. of this reign, being upon a tour
35. through England.

S I M P S O N.

ON the 14th of May, 1761, died Mr. Thomas Simpson, Fellow of the Royal Society. He was born at Market Bosworth, in the year 1710. Being born of poor parents he was only taught to read while under their care; but nature, notwithstanding this forbidding circumstance, had formed his mind for knowledge.

When about fourteen years of age there happened a great eclipse of the sun, which struck the mind of this youth, uncultivated as his judgment was, with a strong desire of knowing the cause; nor could youthful inclinations unbend him from the purpose. Before he had reached his 19th year

year he taught himself to write; and C H A P.
35.
about this time hap pening to be at a
relation's, a travelling pedlar and
fortune-teller took lodging at the same
house. Young Simpson wondering
at the pretensions of this man, took
great pains to win his favor by every
act that complaisance could dictate:
and in return the fortune-teller, who
was a man of some abilities, took
every opportunity of satisfying such
an agreeable companion.

The pedlar's necessities lead him to
Bristol fair, but he left in Simpson's
hands Cocker's Arithmetic, to which
was subjoined a short appendix on
Algebra, and a book of Partridge's,
the almanac-maker, on genitures. —
The pedlar on his return found his
pupil so expert at figures, that excited
his utmost astonishment.

Soon

CHAP. 35. Soon after this he became the oracle of Bosworth, and its vicinity; and laying aside the business of a weaver, he made a public profession of catting nativities. Altho' he found fortune-telling rather lucrative, yet he was far from being satisfied with the knowledge he had obtained. Having procured Mr. Stone's book of Fluxions, he made such progress in this more intricate part of the mathematics, as to compose a much more complete treatise on that subject than had ever been published. He about this time married a widow with two children, by whom he had others — This increate of expences, and having left off the profitable profession of an astrologer, he was driven to such distress that he left his family and went to London, where he worked in
Spitalfields

spitalfields at the business of a weaver; and appropriated the evenings to the teaching mathematics; which succeeded so well that he fetched his family to share with him those comforts his profession afforded.

He did not long remain in this obscurity, for his school increasing, his abilities became known; which encouraged him to make proposals for publishing by subscription a new treatise of Fluxions, with the doctrine of infinite Series, which were published with success A. D. 1737.

Three years after he published a treatise on the nature and laws of chance, which were followed by some ingenious essays on several useful and curious subjects, in speculative and mixed mathematics.

H VOL. V. These

CHAP. These performances gained him not
36. only the reputation of a good mathematician here, but procured him a diploma from Stockholm, which constituted him a member of the Royal Academy there.

In 1742, he published his doctrine of Annuities and Reversions, which were followed by a treatise of Algebra, wherein the first principles are clearly shewn: to which he subjoined a number of geometrical problems, with the method of resolving them.

His extraordinary abilities were now generally known, which procured him the interest of several eminent personages, in this walk of science: amongst these was William
Jones,

Jones, Esq; F. R. S. thro' whose ^{C H A P. 36.} interest he was appointed professor of mathematics, in the king's academy at Wolwich; and soon after was chosen a member of the Royal Society. At the academy he paid an almost unremitted attention to the instruction of his pupils; & the rapid progress they made under his superintendency was amazing. The manner of his conveying instruction to his pupils had the most happy effect; his dictates were not sent forth like the absolute mandates of a stern monarch, too frequent in our schools, but were tempered with a sweetness that captivated while it allured; beloved by his scholars his injunctions were always obeyed. Such a certain degree of dignity was tempered with his mildness,

CH A P 36. nefs, that it produced a laudable respect without dread. Altho' the punctual discharge of this important trust gained him the esteem of his superiors, yet it unhappily began to injure his health. His spirits sunk gradually, from his close application, 'till he became incapable of performing the duty of his office.—His physicians prescribed without effect. His native air was at last advised, which he immediately set off for ; but on his arrival at Bosworth, he was so fatigued with his journey, that he betook himself to his chamber, which he was never able to depart from ; and died in about two months after. He had procured a commission for his son in the royal regiment of artillery ; and the King, out of respect to Mr. Simpson's great abilities, conferred a singular honour

on

NICHOLAS RICHMOND.

113

on his widow, by granting her a ^{C H A P.} handsome pension, and genteel apartments adjoining to the academy. 36.

Mr. Simpson is an instructing lesson of the efficacy of natural tendency.— Born, not to share the comforts that flow from competency, but amidst all the evils of uncertainty, concomitant to a low, and obscure birth, his genius, formed to break the powerful fetters of indigence, soared upon the wings of resolution, and pluck'd a laurel from the lofty eminence of Fame !

NICHOLAS RICHMOND,

A merciless usurer, who died in Leicester but a few years since ; and whose life being handed down to posterity, will serve no other purpose, than

H 3

for

CHAP. for mankind to detest those actions
36. which have made his memory infamous.

He was born a quaker, but his life was a perfect contrast to the humanity of those apparent happy people. Altho' he lived amidst scenes of the most complicated wretchedness, yet he was an utter stranger to the soft feelings of compassion. If he had no vices that mark the debauchee, the intemperate, and profane, yet in a round of threescore years not the exercise of one social duty is to be found.

His coffers were filled from the scanty pittance of the miserable, subject to his influence through want.— When the needy parent had stripped the unoffending babe to procure it sustenance, the pledge was unfeeling-
ly

ly received, while the tender innocent lay folded in its mother's arms in rags.

CHAP.

36.

He owned a certain district of dwellings, among which he lived, peopled by the most indigent, over whom he exercised the most unlimited oppressions ; sensible that their necessities made him (to use the language of scripture) *their miserable comforter* !

A poor woman, one of his tenants, with a numerous family, who owed him a few weeks rent, (for he collected his rents weekly) he ejected in this manner :—Knocking at her door, he says to the good woman, “ I want to speak with thee ;—go into the entry & take all thy children with thee, and I will go to thee.” The poor woman not suspecting his intention obeyed

H 4

his

CHAP. his request, which was no sooner
36. done than he secured the door, seized her goods, and never suffered her to enter therein any more.

To particularize the steps he took to amass wealth, would only irritate; suffice it to say, that his penuriousness prompted him to sacrifice the precious gifts of heaven, to his voluptuous thirst for gain.—Out of the very few times which he dared to lay out three farthings for half-a-pint of ale, he had once the misfortune to let his mug fall, and spill his drink: the trifling disaster brought from him this harsh sentence, “*Guts, guts, ye must suffer for this.*”—The food he took, which was of the meanest sort, he invariably weighed before he allowed the pressing calls of nature its necessities,

ties. Potatoes were his chief support, CHAP
four ounces of which were a stipulated 36.
meal. His figure was the picture of
want, garbed like a pitiable mendi-
cant. Lean as the watery aliment
could make him, his languid counte-
nance, under a large hat, seemed ab-
sorbed in thought.——In the midst of
his vain pursuits the hand of death
seized and forced him from his *god* of
riches—to tremble at the presence of
Omnipotence !

MARQUIS of GRANBY,

A pleasing contrast to the above,
was son and heir to his grace, John
duke of Rutland. He was early ini-
tiated into the military service, and
became a distinguished general. In
1745, he commanded the Leicester-
shire regiment, raised in defence of his
majesty

CHAP 36, majesty, George the 2d. against the pretenders claim. In 1755, he was promoted to the rank of major-general. In 1758, he was made lieutenant-general and colonel of the royal regiment of horse-guards. And in the last war, upon the disgrace of lord George Sackville, he was honoured with the command of the British forces, in Germany, where his valour was displayed on many occasions; particularly in the battle of Kirch Denkern, where the honour of the day was attributed to the courage of the British troops under his command. But his humanity there will be remembered with gratitude, so long as a soldier's sufferings shall call forth the sympathetic tear: he no sooner saw but relieved the various pitiable objects concomitant to war. The sick

sick were recovered by his bounty, and refreshment plentifully administered to the weary. Nor did the miserable partner of a soldier's fortune, struggling with her helpless offspring, pass unrelieved. He beheld, he pitied, and nobly rewarded their constancy in the uncertainty of war.— With such a heart no wonder that his expenditures should exceed his large income, which he found on his return to be rather excessive. Altho' his illustrious parent did honourable satisfy his claimants demands, yet the embarrassment, it is believed by some, hastened his days: for he lived only a few years after his arrival in England. But his name will long live in the page of history. Gratitude will proclaim the noble deeds of his commiserating heart to after ages.

On

CHAP. On Monday the 28th of Sept. 1770,

36.

his remains were interred in the family vault at Bottesford, in this county : numbers of his friends went to meet the corps, and shewed great signs of sorrow on the occasion. Indeed the outward marks of affection that were testified by all ranks of people in the villages and towns whither his remains passed thro', indicated how universally he was beloved.

AN ABSTRACT,

From the copy of his majesty's thanks to the officers and soldiers of the Militia of this county, upon their being disembodied ; dated War-Office, Dec. 20, 1762, and directed to the hon. colonel Grey :—

“ Sir,

“ The King having been pleased

“ to

The Rev. Mr. GERRARD ANDREWS. 121

“ to sign orders for disembodying the ^{CHAP.}
“ corps of Militia under your com- 36.
“ mand, I am commanded by his
“ Majesty in name, to express to you
“ the great satisfaction he has received
“ from the seasonable and meritori-
“ ous service of the Militia of Lei-
“ cestershire ; and as a mark of His
“ Royal approbation, I am com-
“ manded to acquaint you that His
“ Majesty is pleased to permit each
“ non-commissioned Officer and pri-
“ vate man to keep his cloaths and
“ knapsack, and also to allow each
“ man fourteen days pay from the
“ day of their being disembodied.

(Signed) “ W. ELLIS.”

The Rev. Mr. GERRARD ANDREWS

VICAR of St. Nicholas', Leicester,
and

C H A P. and many years head Master of the

36.

Free-school in that place, died in Feb. 1764. He was a gentleman much esteemed as a divine and a scholar, Under his tuition that school was a seminary of great repute ; not only the sons of the first families, in these parts, were placed under his care ; but numbers from much greater distances also received the rudiments of an education that do honour to his abilities. ; Cheerful in his deportment and destitute of tyranny his school was a scene of lively obedience. Beloved by the boys, for his free

; Dr. Farmer, not to mention any more of literary fame, was his scholar. This gentleman's extensive learning is too generally known to need a comment. He is Master of Emanuel College, Cambridge, &c. &c. and he was the late Vice Chancellor of that University.

free and gentle treatment, his precepts C H A P.
36.
were readily received, and the task despatched with alacrity.— As a divine he alike captivated in the desk and pulpit. He read with an energy, just, and influencing, and he taught with a conciseness pertinently persuasive, and intelligible to a general auditory. To conclude a character thus but faintly sketched, he was long considered one of the brightest ornaments of the clerical and dictatorial professions.

A R I O T.

PROVISIONS having arisen to a great price, by forestalling, and other evil practices, the common people, at Hinckley, in this county, assembled in a notorious manner, and upon the road leading thither they stopped some
waggon-

CHAP. 36. waggon-loads of cheese, and distributed their contents among the mob, to the amount of 87l.—And in about three weeks after, being the last day of Sept. 1766, a great riot, on the same account, happened in Leicester. Mr. Pridmore, of Market-Harbro', lodged a considerable quantity of cheese at a warehouse at the Blue-bell inn, contrary to the advice of the magistrates, and was imprudent enough to take it away before the fair; accordingly a waggon-load was sent thence about one o'clock; — but the poor, upon an alarm being given, stopped the waggon and distributed the cheese among the mob before the magistrates could be acquainted with the riot. The mob by this time were become extremely numerous, and proceeded to Mr. Pridmore's warehouse, which they broke open, and began

began to give away the cheese before CHAP.
the justices arrived. The whole town 36.
was now alarmed, the magistrates ex-
postulated with the incensed multi-
tude, but to little effect. At length
the drum was ordered to beat to arms,
(the militia being in Leicester) and
the soldiers were soon in order upon
the spot, headed by Mr. Mortimer,
one of their officers. With their bay-
onets fixed, they with difficulty clear-
ed the street; but notwithstanding
this, and the riot act being read, the
people refused to disperse, and beha-
ved unruly at some little distance from
the soldiers. Then the magistrates
ordered all the cheeses that were in
the market-place to be removed to the
'Change, under a strong guard, and
promised that the cheese should be
sold at three-pence per lb. Upon

I VOL. V. this

CHAP. this the mob emptied, in a short time,

36.

all the warehouses, and inns, where it had been lodged for sale, and huckster's shops in the town of cheese, and took it to the 'Change. Towards the evening, the soldiers being dismissed, the mob collected again and grew more tumultuous than before, and searched every waggon which came into Leicester that night. They were now no less in number than 4000, and seized almost every thing in their way; the drums were again ordered to beat to arms, and there seemed confusion on the face of every one: here a lawless, numerous mob, joined by numbers from the neighbouring villages, and the soldiers running with their arms to join the main body, who were marching towards the waggons. Peaceable people, with
the

the magistrates, procured flambeaux C H A P.
36.
lighted ; but the lights were almost as
instantly struck out by the mob : in
the end however the soldiers protected
and secured the waggons, and the
next day some of the rioters were cast
into prison. But the mob assembled
again and broke all the gaol windows.
Some of these rioters also were secured
in prison, and, to prevent a rescue,
a captain's guard of 100 men, with
fifteen rounds of powder and ball,
stood centry at the prison, where they
continued all night. The mob, after
this spirited conduct, dispersed. In
several other places in the county
there were riots about the same time.
At Hinckley, two principals in this
riot were rescued, when in custody of
some constables, by the mob there ;
but on a troop of dragoons, and a
part

CHAP. party of the militia of the county,
36. marching to the assistance of the civil power, some of the rioters were taken, and brought under a strong guard to prison; where they were, for a time, secured in the dungeon, loaded with irons. Afterward several other rioters were taken up, and lodged in prison.—At Sheephead, it was with much difficulty some rioters were taken who had been concerned in desperate outrages.

These rioters were tried in the succeeding March, A. D. 1767, when in consideration of their long imprisonment, their punishment was but inconsiderable: some were fined in small sums, and others were imprisoned for a certain portion of time,—Thus ended, by the spirited behaviour of the magistrates, one of the most alarming

larming tumults which have been known in these parts.

CHAP.
36.

B R I B E R Y.

A. D. 1768, a more violent contest happened, this year, for members to serve in parliament, than has been ever remembered for the borough of Leicester. & But as I have purposely omitted relations of this kind for obvious reasons, I will only remark, that in this, both parties were guilty of the most flagrant violation of the constitution, that bribery could effect.—Passing over the less criminal, who were tempted to accept the golden bait from want, there were some wretches

& The successful candidates were the honourable Booth Grey and Sir Eyre Coote ;—the unsuccessful John Darker and — Palmer, Esq.

CHAP^{36.} Wretches, who, placed far from the power of necessity, waited with the most anxious expectation, for a favorable opportunity, to sell their birth-right, their most valuable privilege as members of a free state, themselves, and country. Can such dare to expect protection from the constitution of a kingdom, wise, salutary, and equitable? Can they expect to be considered as descendants from that noble ancestry, which at various periods of our history, have rescued from tyranny our freedom; and died in its cause, to fix it upon a firm basis? In vain did, Cassivelanus, Caractacus, Alfred, Harold, Montfort, the barons under king John, Russell, Sidney, and their followers, struggle or suffer for such a corrupted progeny. In vain may we expect an independant house of Commons while
such

such are suffered to stab at the vitals CHAP.
36.
of our existence, as a free, and happy people ! But 'tis happy for posterity that this evil is approximating apace towards an end : the present parliament either from saving views, or from virtuous principles, have formed salutary regulations, which seem wisely intended to heal this dangerous malady.

It is but justice however in contrast to the above, to observe, that there were some in Leicester at that time of the most indigent class, that scorned, amid' the sufferings of poverty, the tempting offer, who nobly refused to aid their country's ruin, although they had the least share in its benefits.

A MIRACLE.

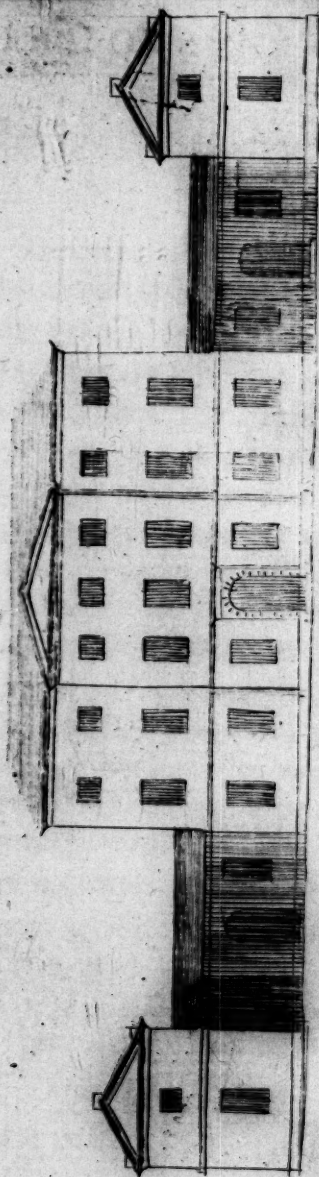
The following relation, of a miraculous escape from death, appeared in
the

CH A P. the Leicester Journal for Nov. 17th,
36.

1770 :—

“ One Bunney, a labourer, of
“ Asfordby, in this county, on Sun-
“ day last, going to cross a river
“ there, in order to see some relati-
“ ons at a neighbouring village, with
“ his wife and child ; in going along
“ the mill-dam the woman's foot
“ slip'd, and she fell into the water,
“ a few yards above the flood-gates ;
“ the man, who could not swim,
“ anxious to preserve his wife, even
“ at the hazard of his own life, in-
“ stantly laid down the child upon
“ the bank, and jumped into the dam,
“ in hopes of stopping her before she
“ should pass the flood-gate ; but the
“ water being very rapid, they were
“ both taken by the stream quite
“ through the gates ; the woman
“ laid hold of a post at the bottom of
“ the





I. INFIRMARY.

" the flood-gates, whilst the man, CHAP.
 " with the rapidity of the current, 36
 " was driven down the stream, but
 " luckily catching hold of a thorn,
 " he saved his life and got out. As
 " he was returning to the mill, sup-
 " posing his wife drowned, he saw her
 " hang in the above alarming situati-
 " on, and was so happy, with the as-
 " sistance of two men, then coming
 " by, to get her out, and save her
 " life."

It seems that at this time there was
 an overflow of waters, which makes
 the escape more miraculous.

LEICESTER-INFIRMARY,

NOTWITHSTANDING that the lapse
 of time had removed, in some mea-
 sure, opulence from this county,
 K VOL. V. which

CHAP. 36. which may be discovered by the ruins of some noble mansions, and the preceding Memoirs; yet no sooner was the God-like thought announced to the remaining few, of relieving the miseries of the indigent afflicted, by Infirmaryes, than COMPASSION, the guardian angel of distress, waisted the amiable purpose to the noble hearted, upon the wings of love. Cherished by the good and great, it soon became too powerful to be injured by the invidious shafts of detraction.

It was built and endowed chiefly at the expence of the gentlemen inhabitants of Leicestershire, and opened for the reception of patients sick, & lame, from any county, A. D. 1771.—But before we particularize its progress, it is necessary to acquaint the reader, that its utility was first announced by
Dr.

Dr. Watts, a gentleman who must long be remembered by the charitable and necessitous.—The following are some of the incitements that gentlemen warmly urged on the occasion, which will not only shew his good sense, but will manifest the amiableness of his heart. But for these purposes alone to be the intention of republishing them here might hurt the delicacy of their author.—It flatters the hopes of one, who can only wish prosperity to so extensive, so great a charity, that hereafter, as well as at present, those who are blest with the power of succouring the necessitous afflicted, may not only be convicted of the propriety of his remarks, but that they, in consequence thereof, may aid such as are wretched captives to the miseries attendant on human nature.

CHAP. 36. “ The great utility of the laborious poor, those supporters of society, upon whom the wealth, upon whom the prosperity, upon whom the defence, upon whom the very existence of the nation, doth so manifestly and mainly depend.

“ The but too obviously disgraceful, and fatal, neglect of them. The leaving them to the vexatious and distressful consequences, of the various deplorable accidents and distempers, to which they are so liable ; or, what is still far worse, a prey to those ignorant, those interested, to those enterprising, to those utterly unfeeling, intruders upon the faculty, and depredators upon property and life ; who in this nation, (tho’ so happy in its laws and government) so grievously abound.

“ The

“ The natural and alarming consequences, of such unnatural and evident neglect: A numerous sickly, maimed, languishing, and burthensome poor ; a weakly offspring ; and population decreasing from this, at least as much as from any other single, cause. C H A P. 36.

“ The improbability, not to say impossibility, of having them taken care of speedily, effectually, comfortably, and cheaply, at home.

“ But the minister of each parish, and the gentlemen of the faculty can best tell, and let every honest, and experienced one testify, the frequent consequences in sufferance, and, at length, in expence, of even the commonest accidents, whether contusi-

CHAP.
36.

ons, or the slightest puncture, or cut ; especially in deprav'd habits, in bad situations, and unfavourable seasons ; through want of proper, or under, what is still worse, improper care : What foul ulcers, and even foul bones, and stiff joints, thence proceed. Those gentlemen can also best tell, what complicated, and radical, distempers arise from, that universal one amongst the poor, Worms, or from, that almost as universal one, Intermittents, superinduced, amongst other causes, thereby ; degenerating into putrid fevers ; bringing on jaundice, dropsy, asthma ; or terminating in deep seated abscesses ; whence a languishing, hopeless, life, and a premature death.

“ Here is no exaggeration ; but the
too

too daily experience, alas ! affording CHAP.
but too full and melancholy evidence 36.
of these.

“ Any person who at all adverts to the state of the laborious poor, cannot but observe how few have houses fit for a bed of sickness, how very few can be attended properly in their habitations, such as they are ; being some times at great distance from each other, vastly further from the professors of physic and surgery, which must make the charge of medicine & attendance utterly insupportable to them ; whence, either left to themselves, or falling into unskilful, and dishonest, hands, they become objects of the most complicated misery and distress.

“ The *secondary* inducements arise
K 4 from

CHAP. 36. from the manifest and manifold, advantages of the many establishments of this kind, which have in various counties already taken place.

“ Advantages such to the sick and maimed poor, as are indeed not to be had by even persons of fortune in their private families.

“ Those admitted are not only accommodated with every thing necessary, or proper for them in their respective conditions, but have such constant and regular attendance of persons thoroughly versed in every branch of physic, such well inspected drugs, such appropriate medicines, such exact diet, such experienced nurses and assistants, such convenience of external applications, as of
hot

hot and cold baths, pumpings, sweat. CHAP.
 ing-chairs, and other collateral aids, 36.
 that it must be an happy combination
 of circumstances indeed, under which
 persons of wealth and distinction
 themselves can be so assisted.

“ The advantages to the *community*
 in prompt relief, speedy and radical
 cures, whereby so very many are kept
 from being long a load alike to soci-
 ety and themselves ; which advantages
 are so very conspicuous, where men
 with minds open to conviction attend
 duly thereto ; and result indeed so im-
 mediately from the above, that it
 would be impertinent to specify them
 there.

“ The result of a proper enquiry
 into the state of the sick and maimed
 poor, how very greatly they stand in
 need

CHAP. need of, and how very highly they de-
36. serve, better care ; the result of an inquiry into the nature and obligations of our duty to them, and therein to the universal Lord : The result of an inquiry into the manner wherein the most consoling, the most efficacious, the most *endearing*, at the same time the least expensive assistance can be given, will, I doubt not, be, that a public Infirmary not only in *this*, but in *every*, county is required.— Whether the voice of the most æconomical polity, the voice of reason,—of humanity ; of religion, be heard, each loudly declareth, *That* the most adequate relief of the distressed ; to the disburdening the parishes, to the credit of the nation, to the credit of this province, to the credit of each individual subscriber, to the endearing
ing

ing the rich to the poor, to the glory CHAP.
36.
of that unspeakable great and good being, who delighteth in mercy, and to the obtaining that mercy pronounced upon the merciful, of which not only the nation in general, but each individual, so very greatly standeth in need.

“ Much more might certainly be added concerning the expediency and *necessity*, of an institution, in every view agreeable to the *dignity* of the county, and for the public good.— But the lives, and limbs of those tillers of our fields by the sweat of whose brow we break bread : The lives and limbs of those soldiers and sailors, who are at once the intrepid assertors of *our* liberty, and *that* of *mankind* : The ease and relief of our compatriots and comprovincials,

CHAP. 36. comprovincials, of those our fellow sufferers who have truly the post of honour in this life of manly trial here below, and are heirs of the same sure and immortal hope : Motives these so exceedingly interesting and important, the great characteristic of the nation so prevalent also and diffused, that it would be an insult to enlarge.

“ Only be it permitted to add that I write in the fullest and most experimental persuasion of the necessity of what I have undertaken to recommend, that I nevertheless most heartily wish the affair was in abler hands, that I am too well acquainted with my station to *presume*, and with the rights of mankind, whatever, were [my station, to *pretend*, to *dictate*, in a manner of so general and weighty concern.

If

If either in virtue of any personal CHAP.
36.
experience, or of the materials which I have collected, or of the assistance wherewith I am favour'd, I can in any shape serve the community, and that (I hope evidently) without any the least interested intent, I shall have a great additional cause to bless and praise that good God, under whom I submit this to all to whom it any way relateth, and principally to those who in their exalted station may *thro' the divine influence*, best promote and bring it speedily to good effect.

“ I would hope that it will not appear assuming or presumptuous, in me, that in the humble duties of mine, I endeavour thus to render myself an useful, (being very truly an affectionate) servant of the community in general,

CH A P. neral, and of my native county in
36. particular.

“ W. WATTS, M. D.

“ Late Physician to the County-Infirmery at Northampton.”

The guardians of this institution, in its infant state, being convinced of the propriety of Dr. Watts's remarks, not only unanimously appointed him a Governor for life, but publicly gave him their Thanks, as an honorary reward for his humanity. And, can a more splendid dignity be conferred on human nature, than—to be applauded by mankind for possessing a disposition truly Godlike ?

Officers appointed at the establishment of this Infirmery :—President, His Grace the duke of Montagu.—
Vice.

Vice-presidents, The earls of Hunt-CHAP.
ingdon, Stamford, Harbro', lord 36.
Viscount Wentworth, and lord Vis-
count Maynard.—Visitor, The Right
Rev. lord Bishop of Lincoln.—Phy-
sicians, Dr. Vaughan, and Dr. Ar-
nold.—Treasurer, Joseph Bunney,
Esq.—And Auditors, Samuel Oliver
and Henry Coleman, Esquires.—The
surgeons of Leicester were appointed
to attend in weekly rotation.

On Wednesday, Sept. 11th, 1771,
being the day appointed for opening
the Leicester-Infirmery, about half
past ten in the forenoon, the Govern-
ors, attended by the Right Rev. the
lord Bishop of Lincoln, formed a pro-
cession to St. Martin's church. Upon
their entrance into which a grand
overture was played; and during in-
tervals, in the church service, several
select

CHAP. select pieces were performed from the

36.

MESSIAH, by the most capital performers from London and other parts of the kingdom. After which the bishop of Lincoln preached a suitable sermon on the occasion, from St. Mark, chap. I, and the former part of the 34th verse : *And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases.* The service concluded with the Coronation Anthem. Divine service being ended the Bishop, attended by the Governors, and an amazing number of decent spectators went to the Infirmary, which they opened with great solemnity, and admitted therein one patient.—From the Infirmary the gentlemen returned to the Three-Cranes, and the ladies to the Three-Crowns, where were genteel Ordinaries provided for them.

The

The collection at the church doors, CHAP.
36.
which was made by lady Robinson,
and the lady of Anthony James Keck,
Esq amounted to (including the admission tickets) 233l. 14s. 10d. halfpenny.

In the evening there was a grand Concert at the New-Assembly-Room, to the most brilliant company that had ever met there on any former occasion. The first violin was played by Mr. Fisher; the hautboy solos by Mr. Fischer, and the songs by Mr. Vernon and Mrs. Barthelemon, attended by a large band of gentlemen performers, and the band of music belonging to the Blues. The whole was conducted by Joseph Cradock, Esq; and the Rev. Mr. Jenner. The admittance tickets into the concert amounted to 98l. 10s.

The gentlemen, in the most spirit-

L VOL. V. ed

CHAP. 36. ed manner, continued the anniver-
saries for the benefit of the institution,
and at one of them the band was so
great and excellent, that a capital
London performer observed, that if
the great Handel had been living, and
present on the occasion, he would have
declared, that then was the first time
his *Te Deum* was performed agreeable
to the sublimity of his conceptions.

The following are some of the names
of those noblemen and gentlemen who
were the first and greatest benefactors
to the Infirmary :

Shuckburgh Ashby, Esq; 300l. Jos.
Cradock, Esq; of Leicester, 100l.
Sir Wolstan Dixie, Bart. 100l.
John Darker, Esq; 300l. Charles
Jennings, Esq; 100l. Anthony James
Esq;

Esq; 300l. and 500l. left to him by ^{CHAP.} his mother to be disposed of to charitable uses. Sir J. Palmer, Bart. 300l. Charles James Pack, Esq; 100l. William Pochin, Esq; 100l. Sir George Robinson, 100l. 36.

Annual sums ; Jos. Bunney, Esq; 10l. 10l. Sir Thomas Cave, Bart, 10l. 10s. Joseph Cradock, Esq; of Gumbley, 10l. 10s. Right Hon. the Earl of Denbigh, 20l. Right Hon. the Countess of Denbigh, 10l. 10s. Right Hon. the Earl of Huntingdon, 20l. Charles Jennings, Esq; 10l. 10s. His Grace the duke of Montague, 20l. Right Hon. Lord Maynard, 10l. 10s. Samuel Phillips, Esq; 10l. 10s. and a gift of 50l. Henry Palmer, 10l. 10s. Right Hon. the earl of Stamford, 20l. Right Hon.

L 2

CHAP. Hon. lord Viscount Wentworth, 15l.
 36. 15s. Mrs. M. Wigley, 10l. 10s.
 And Mrs. Anne Wigley, 50l. and
 2l. 2s. per annum, &c. &c.

To these pious and well intended gifts have been added several very liberal benefactions, and legacies, since its institution, so that there has been expended, even in its infant state, a thousand pounds per annum, upon the most pitiable objects, and this notwithstanding a strict œconomy. Under Doctor Vaughan, the chief physician to this house, who has repeatedly received the thanks of the governors for his important aid in forming rules necessary to be observed; and for his judicious management and professional skill, the utmost regularity has been observed.

The surgeons in Leicester, at the
 first

first institution of this charity, attend-^{C H A P.}
ed in weekly rotation ; but now it is ^{36.}
left to two or three who have the care
of the patients in their department.—
The clergy also attended in like man-
ner to pray by the patients ; but now
from the piety of John Peach Hunger-
ford, and Shuckburgh Ashby, Esqrs.
this house is provided with a Chap-
lain.

The FOUNDERS of this noble cha-
rity possess the most exalted and libe-
ral sentiments : They wished and de-
creed their blessings to be boundless :
The stranger and the native are alike
the objects of this merciful Asylum.—
And while the hand of hoary time is
laying up succeeding years, may the
affluent bestow on it a tribute of their
esteem, 'till it arrive to that maturity

CHAP. 36. so earnestly desired by those, who have but little more to bestow on it than their prayers.

Since the first foundation of this excellent charity, it appears by the reports, that 1206 l. 6s. 8d. is the total sum that has been expended.

RECORDERS of LEICESTER.

A. D. 1766, Robert Bakewell, Esq; the then Recorder of Leicester, being by a court of Aldermen voted from his office, William Burleton, Esq; the present Recorder of Leicester, was chosen in his room. The following is a list of the Recorders of Leicester from 1531, Mr. Broxbe's choice, to his time.—A. D. 1536, John Raymond, Esq.—1541, Edward Griffin, Esq.—1550, John Beaumont, Esq;

RECORDERS of LEICESTER. 155

Esq.--1552, John Hunt, Esq.--1553, CHAP
Francis Farnham, Esq.--1558, Fran- 36.
cis Etton, Esq.--1559, R. Breame,
Esq.--1576, Richard Perkyns, Esq;
of Bunney.--1603, John Stanford,
Esq; who died the year of his election,
in the room of whom Augustin Ni-
choll, Esq; was chosen.--1612, Fran-
cis Harvey, Esq.--1624, Thomas
Chapman, Esq.--1653, James Win-
stanley, Esq.--1661, Robert Hard-
ing, Esq --1680, Nathan Wright,
Esq.--1685, Earl of Huntingdon was
chosen by the new Charter, and con-
tinued about three years, when Na-
than Wright was restored,--1696,
Lawrence Carter, Esq,--1729, Wm.
Wright, Esq.--1763, Robert Bake-
well, Esq.--1766, William Burle-
ton, Esq. This gentleman is also
justice of the peace for Leicestershire,

CHAP. and major of the militia for this
36. county.

JAMES WIGLEY, Esq.

A gentleman distinguished for his humanity, and possessing in an exalted degree the friendly virtues. This gentleman's residence was at Scraptoft-hall in this county, where his hospitality will be long remembered. He was chosen representative for the borough of Leicester A. D. 1737, and continued in that office until his death which happened in 1765. Amid' the rage of party dissension, detraction found no avenue to wound his character; virulence and defamation were disarmed of their venom'd shafts by the amiableness of his disposition.--His enemies, if he had any, were only so from principle: even *they* admired and applauded the *Man*, when they opposed

fed the *Candidate*.—A life spent, whenC H A P.
from the duties of his office, in rural 36.
retirement, and domestic felicity, was
the uninterrupted course of his exist-
ence ; succouring the necessitous with
a liberal, but not a profuse hand. The
industrious peasant found in him a kind
Master, ever ready to prevent by em-
ployment, those evil issues attendant
on its wants: a towering precipice,
raised for this purpose, stands like a
living monument in his gardens, ex-
pressive of his generous soul.—The
spiry groves, which ascend around it,
testify in pleasing, in captivating clus-
ters, how friendly, how amiable were
his actions ; he lived to succour, and
he died to obtain those pleasures of
which he had some foretaste, by being
the Father of the necessitous.—O !
would the Great, who are compelled

CHAP. 36. to burden the industrious to supply the vacuum of their excesses, but once leave their round of dissipation to taste those joys which flow from such domestic scenes, what happiness would succeed : The poor would be blest with hospitality, and they would labour with the song of contentment ; no murmurings, which now prevail against oppression, would be heard to unharmonise the mind ; an union of the most pleasurable nature would be seen under the patronage of such illustrious characters ; and they would retire from these abodes with the plaudits of gratitude, and perfectly at peace with human nature, and their GOD !

A

/ Some perhaps have expected monumental inscriptions, which are not uncommon

THE manufacturers of stockings, in Leicester, and the villages adjoining, hearing some unfavourable reports respecting a stocking-frame which had been made by an ingenious mechanic, assembled on Monday March 15th, 1773, for the purpose of destroying it; it being supposed so to expedite their business that might occasion numbers of them to be unemployed. But altho' the report was groundless, they dared even to force themselves into

common in the swelled folios of provincial history. But I have, in general, purposely omitted them, as being the vain productions of kindred, or friendly, partiality. It is on this account that no particular mention is made of this gentleman's neat monument and modest inscription which is placed in Scrafton-church.

CHAP. 36. into the 'Change, where it had been lodged by the order of the then Mayor; took it thence, and carried it in triumph round the town, and at last destroyed it, and dispersed without further mischief.—The conduct of Mr. Alderman Peach, the then mayor of Leicester, and Mr. Simpson and Mr. Goode, the proprietors of the frame, was highly applauded by the inhabitants of Leicester in general, on this occasion, in endeavouring, by gentle means, to convince the Stocking-makers of the impropriety of their conduct.

A F I R E.

THE last day of Oct. 1773, a terrible fire broke out in a stable, in Humberstone-gate, Leicester, belonging to Mr. Benton, in which his
stage-

stage-coach horses were kept. It CHAP.
burnt so furiously that six out of eight- 36.
teen horses, which were in the stable,
were burnt to death. The timely assistance of the engines and its happening before people were gone to bed, saved, it is imagined, that part of the town from destruction.

HIGH-CROSS, LEICESTER,

WHICH stood where a despicable substitute is placed, was taken down a few years since, being considered an annoyance to the passage in the street it stood in. It was erected in the year 1576, by the Corporation of Leicester. This building was considered an ornament to the town by most travellers; and it has been spoken of by writers as a building of taste and

CHAP. and superiority when compared with
36. other market-crosses.

What possessed the promoters of its destruction, at that time, I know not : the sum it was sold for was extremely inconsiderable ; a paltry pittance compared with its intrinsic worth.— The present is, to them who saw the former, *like the 'baseless fabric of a vision*, injurious to taste ; and truly ignoble compared with elegance. If it were in a street not suited to its magnitude a few pounds would have removed it thence, to a place where its beauty would have been conspicuous, and where it might have remained an ornament to Leicester, and a monument of the taste of those who erected it. — — — — — But

UOW

now its fragments lie scattered and dishonoured ; some are hidden in the foundations of buildings, and some of its most component parts have been mangled by the stone-cutter for various uses. Alas !—Factum infectum fieri nequit.

CHAP.
36.

The four gates, which originally belonged to the walls of Leicester, which were built in the reign of Edward, the son of the great Alfred, were taken down in 1774 ; but there were then but little of originality about them, except their foundations. We may discover that public utility was not alone considered in the destruction of these gates : the north passage, where one of them stood, is likely long to support the assertion.

RELIEF.

A. D. 1775, a subscription was opened in Leicester, by the friends of government, for the relief of the widows and orphans of those soldiers who lost their lives in America, during the rebellion there. The corporation of Leicester gave liberally to this subscription, as did also several gentlemen in the county.

Near the same time Dr. Bicham, the present archdeacon of Leicester, promoted a subscription, in his archdeaconry, among the clergy, for the support of the ministers, of the English church, who suffered, and were driven to necessity for their adherence to the civil and religious government of this kingdom. A handsome sum was obtained also for this laudable purpose.

Mr.

ONE of the Aldermen of Leicester, CHAP.
died A. D. 1775. This gentleman 36.
had the reputation of an able magistrate, and was long considered as the prime counsellor, or chief ruler in the body politic of that place. None have charged him, altho' he was an assiduous and careful tradesman, with being biased, in his public character, by self-interest. Those who have often seen him at the head of corporate assemblies, heard the "advice of reason, coolness, and deliberation.— And whilst he was considered as the principal of this confined government, few of those irregularities happened, which must necessarily occur when temerity or weakness take the lead. He retired from business towards the evening of his life, to enjoy the fruits of his industry, and the consolation of having lived usefully among mankind.

M VOL. V. Mr.

CHAP.
36.

Mr. THOMAS LEE,

OF Leicester, who died A. D. 1776, and with whom I had the pleasure of an acquaintance, was an industrious antiquarian. He made a large collection of coins and medals ; but a long application to the intricate paths of antiquity, made him, habitually, unlike the man of the world ; leading a life of retirement, that unfitted him for general society. He was however instructive and agreeably familiar to his acquaintance, especially on subjects which suited the bias of his inclination, His memory was retentive, even in the eve of life ; but his remarkable diffidence and shyness, made it but little known. I have attended with pleasure to his pertinent remarks ; and I failed not to be rewarded. He had some peculiarities which appeared disgustful to those about

bout him ; but they were of that kind C H A P. 36.
which rather called forth a smile of pleasure than contempt. When upon his death-bed, at the age of 72, he was disturbed by the good intentions *but the severe admonitions* of a young female, one of them who call themselves *Gospel Hearers*, which irritated him in the extreme.

It seems an unfit moment, when human nature is labouring with the death pangs of affliction, to hold up, to the sufferer's view, the horrid picture of *damnation's terrors* !—With due deference to the instructors of these people, God's injunction—*Comfort ye my people*—appears abundantly more applicable at the hour of an awful separation. Shall we from pretended pity for a brother's soul, even where some blackening vice has marked its passage hither, call up the
depressing

CHAP. 36. depressing tale at that sad hour? For, can man, a being capable of reflection, capable of contemplation on life, death, and future judgment, live without contrition for the frailties of his life?—Instead of awakening to self-conviction, and self-judgment, 'tis surely then a kind, an affectionate, and an endearing office, to veil, with silent pity, the infirmities of human nature, and hush in peaceful rest our departing kindred, friends, and neighbours, who are retiring with composure, & resignation, from these abodes of imperfection, to meet a just, but a merciful JUDGE.

Let them, whose professions frequently call them to the bed of sickness, and who are the common, but sad spectators of human fatality, judge of the propriety of these sentiments. If they be found unjust, I flatter myself

self that the liberal, at least, will be CHAP.
convinced that they are not the dic- 36.
tates of an evil heart.

LEICESTERSHIRE MILITIA.

THE marching of this regiment is the last public concern, of the county, I shall notice, before we enter on the present state of Leicestershire.

21. This regiment was raised, soon after the act was passed for that purpose, during the last war; and was sent upon actual duty, soon after, to Winchester, to guard the French prisoners that were confined there: At the conclusion of that war this regiment was honoured with a royal mark of favour, noticed in page 120 of this vol.

In spring of 1778, the Leicestershire regiment were reviewed by General Ward,

CHAP. Ward, who was so pleased with their
 36. soldier-like appearance, and discipline, that they received a distinguished mark of his approbation. A few weeks after they were sent to Liverpool, to guard that coast, where they now remain. This regiment is now commanded by lord Granby, who was made Colonel on the death of Colonel Grey, uncle to the present earl of Stamford.

ERRATA.

Page 92, line 7, read centry.

— 101 ---- 15, ---- finished.

The END of the 5th VOLUME.

